

Fueling the Fire of Renewal

Issue 1 2024

# PENTECOST *Today*

Magazine of Pentecost Today USA



JESUS 2023 IN KANSAS CITY - DRINK OF ONE SPIRIT

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Walter Matthews

Bishop Peter Smith

Jane Guenther

Janice Charbonnet

Sr. Sarah Rose Dent, TOR

Megan Kruger

Casey Sprehe

John Hutchins



## Chairman's Corner

by Dcn. Ralph Poyo



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

# That They All Be One

One of the most important questions that stands before the Renewal today is this: *Is there still a role and purpose for the Charismatic Renewal today?*

If the Spirit is to play a private role only in the lives of Jesus' disciples, then many would say that there is no longer a need for this movement nationally. If, however, there is a mandate that is yet to be fulfilled, then there is a great need for the international Renewal today.

I believe the latter is true because every person is meant to live the life and power of the Holy Spirit, given to us at baptism. The real struggle is that over the years the Church has lost sight of the essential role of the Spirit, not only within Itself but in the lives of each baptized member.

In Jesus' prayer to his Father in John 17:20-21, Jesus gives us the answer as

to how the world will know that He was sent by the Father.

*"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one..., so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* (NRSV)

The unity of the Church is essential for the world to understand that Jesus was sent by the Father, that they may know His word is true and repent and believe. This is a key part of the evangelization process that is missing.

Rather than following the Lord's example by dying to bring about the unity within the Body of Christ (or at least the Renewal), we have grown comfortable going our own way. The enemy tries to divide us but we must come together. Let us ask the Lord:

What must I do to unite the world in one Holy Spirit? ♦

Discernment is a word that we use in the spiritual world to mean judging between good and evil spirits. We speak of discernment of spirits and check our judgement with Scripture, with the Teaching of the Church, and with God's truth. Read Megan Kruger's description of this charism (p 14) and the stories of two saints known for their practice of this charism (p 15).

The first CHARIS International Assembly gathered in Rome in 2023 (p 3). This is a good time to learn or to be refreshed regarding the history (p 3), and the theological underpinnings (pp 4-5), of CHARIS, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service.

There is a tie-in between Eucharist and living a life of gratitude. Read Bishop Peter Smith's encouragement to readers to "thank God again and again, every day for everything" (p 6). Jane Guenther expresses a thank you to individuals within the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (p 7). Attendees at the recent New Orleans area Women's Retreat are grateful for the many graces received (p 7).

The Community of TOR Sisters of Penance and of the Sorrowful Mother was founded in 1988 (p 8).

Casey Sprehe writes about the evangelization of one's family and the presence and role of parents in the home (p 17).

Check the Newsbriefs for information, some highlights, some statistics, the names of new Board members and gratitude to those who are going off of the Board at this time (p 13). Read an invitation to the 2024 Holy Spirit Leaders' Conference, *Be Aglow with the Spirit*, in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 25-27. Read the announcement of the plans for a Nine-Year Novena to the Holy Spirit (see insert). ♦



# PENTECOST Today

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# THE ORIGINS AND EMERGENCE OF CHARIS

by Michelle Moran

From its beginnings in 1967, Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) developed organically. Gradually, structures began to emerge. In some countries National Service Committees were formed and networks of communities began to be established. At the international level, the Catholic Fraternity (CF) in 1990 and International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) in 1993 received pontifical recognition. Although these entities were distinct in their service, there was close connection and collaboration.

Flowing from the grace of Vatican II, CCR has always been supported by the various popes, beginning with Pope Paul VI, who appointed Cardinal Leo Suenens as the first Ecclesial advisor. Pope Francis has a special relationship with CCR because he experienced things “first hand” when he was archbishop in Buenos Aires. Perhaps this is why, when he saw that CCR was served by two pontifical entities, he suggested that we work towards establishing one single service.

So, the idea of CHARIS (aka Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) came directly from Pope Francis. He emphasised the need for service rather than governance and for CCR to be united in its diversity. He first mentioned this in a letter given to me, as president of ICCRS, and to the president of the Catholic Fraternity at the worldwide priests’ retreat in Rome on June 12, 2015. At that time, we were closely collaborating on the preparations for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in Rome.

Pope Francis is a man of action. During a private audience on April 25, 2016, when we asked him how we could move forward, he suggested setting up a commission. Then to our surprise, he immediately appointed Pino Scafuro, the vice president of CF, and myself as “responsible for the creation of a single new service for all the expressions of the International CCR.”

We saw this as a prophetic move at a crucial moment in our history. The task was expansive, so much more than simply amalgamating the two existing services. In prayer and

discernment, we drew strength from Isaiah 54:2, “Widen the space of your tent.” We realized the enormity of the task: communicating the vision of Pope Francis to the worldwide CCR, managing change within the two existing services, and reaching out to all expressions of CCR worldwide. That task alone was enormous since there are no CCR membership lists. Undoubtedly, the Holy Spirit was with us, and we were able to work towards the goal along with all the Golden Jubilee preparations.

Along the way, there were many discussions, conversations, debates and consultations, as well as several misunderstandings and disagreements. However, just before the Jubilee celebrations, Pino and I assured the Holy Father of our commitment to continue to move forward until the mission was accomplished. So, on May 29, 2017 the Act of Constitution of a new single service for all expressions of the international CCR was signed at the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life in the Vatican. It stated that, “In the coming month, we would take the necessary steps to prepare the statutes for the new service and that during this time ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity would continue their service.”

The journey from the Jubilee 2017 to Pentecost 2019 was one of working closely with the canon lawyers in the dicastery to formulate the statutes; the name CHARIS began to emerge, and a logo was subsequently created. Pope Francis, as a good shepherd, accompanied the process; he gave us support and was keen to hear how things were progressing. During that time, I was also trying to help the worldwide CCR family to understand and “buy into” the vision. All change is painful and for some there was a sense of bereavement as the service of the Catholic Fraternity and ICCRS ended.

Things gathered momentum and by October 2018 the names of the first moderator and members of the International Service of Communion were announced by the dicastery. CHARIS was canonically erected on December 17, 2018 and the new leadership began their service at Pentecost 2019. On that occasion Pope Francis said, “Today a new stage of the journey begins. A stage marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit is manifest for the good of the whole Church.”

NOTE: In 2023 the first CHARIS International Assembly gathered in Rome and delegates from CCR worldwide elected the new International Service of Communion. ♦



*Michelle Moran is a founding member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism near London, England. She served as President of ICCRS, 2006-2017. She was part of the team appointed by Pope Francis to work toward the inauguration of CHARIS.*

# CHARIS:

## Rooted in God's Love

By Walter Matthews

### GOD IS LOVE

St. John proclaims that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8, 16). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* amplifies, “God’s very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange” (CCC 221).

**Flowing from that exchange** we have:

- ▶ the creation “of all things visible and invisible” (The Nicene Creed);
- ▶ the calling and formation of a people, the People of God: “You shall be my people and I will be your God” (Jer 30:22);
- ▶ the Incarnation and ministry of the Savior Messiah, “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel” (Lk 2:32);
- ▶ the calling and formation of Jesus’ disciples as a new community: “The Father’s will is ‘to raise up men [and women] to share in his own divine life.’ He does this by gathering [us] around his Son Jesus Christ. This gathering is the Church, ‘on earth the seed and beginning of [the] Kingdom [of God]’” (CCC 541 quoting *Lumen Gentium* slightly edited);
- ▶ the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death, Resurrection and outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. “By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into

the ‘last days,’ the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated” (CCC 732). Or more succinctly, “the Church was made manifest in the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1076).

**This outpouring has never ceased,** though in certain moments it is made more manifest in the lives of individuals “outstanding in holiness” and in the communal and missionary dimensions of the Church.

- ▶ In the case of holy individuals, “saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church’s history” (Pope John Paul II quoted in CCC 828). Here we have those who went into the desert in the early strata of the Church and those who do so even now (see CCC 918, 920-921).
- ▶ In the second case, saints and others have inspired others to join with them in prayer, action and/or missionary outreach. One thinks of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Dominic, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and so many others. Here we have those who have lived together with others who have professed the evangelical counsels and who thus belong “undeniably to [the Church’s] life and holiness” (CCC 914).
- ▶ *Lumen Gentium* affirms, “From the God-given seed of the counsels a wonderful and wide-spreading tree has grown up in the field of the Lord, branching out into various forms of religious life lived in solitude or in community” (#43, quoted in CCC 917). To these Religious Orders we can add Secular Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life, and in our day, Movements and New Communities. Applying what is said of the Secular Institutes to the newer realities we see that “by a ‘life perfectly

and entirely consecrated to [such] sanctification,’ the members...share in the Church’s task of evangelization, ‘in the world and from within the world,’ where their presence acts as ‘leaven in the world’” (CCC 929).

- ▶ The many Movements and New Communities with which I am familiar share in this dual focus: the growth in holiness and communal love of their members, and the outreach in witness, action and evangelization. They have received many affirmations by the popes of the last 50-plus years (Pope St. Paul VI, Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis). For example, Pope Benedict addressed Bishops and Representatives of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in 2008, “The Ecclesial Movements and New Communities are one of the most important innovations inspired by the Holy Spirit in the Church for the implementation of the Second Vatican Council.”

Pope John Paul II had earlier affirmed such groups in his gathering with them in the Year of the Holy Spirit in 1998 in preparation for the Great Jubilee in 2000: “The hierarchical and charismatic gifts are co-essential in the life of the Church.” [The document from the Congregation of the Faith to all bishops, *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* (The Church Rejuvenates) in 2016 repeated the same message.]

In 1998 Pope John Paul II encouraged all to bring their charisms into the Church. To a World Congress of such groups prior to the event in St. Peter’s he said, “I deeply hope that your congress and the meeting...in St. Peter’s Square will highlight the fruitful vitality of the movements among the People of God.”

In an important book entitled *Ecclesial Movements and Communities: Origins, Significance, and Issues*, Irish Bishop and

theologian Brendan Leahy writes, “The Church’s rediscovery of its charismatic dimension has paved the way for understanding the place of movements in the Church...As well as underlining each baptized individual’s charism, the Second Vatican Council also applied the Pauline expressions on charisms to apostolic communities, their founders and spiritualities....In other words, the term ‘charism’ came to be used not only in Paul’s individual-centered meaning [see 1 Cor 12:7-10] but also in a communitarian sense of sharing in a common spirituality or religious family. This became important for later developments in understanding ecclesial movements and communities” (pp 41-43).

## IN SUMMARY

To summarize what I have been saying, **Ecclesial Movements and New Communities**, like their “relatives” in parishes, dioceses, religious orders, etc. find their theological *raison d’être* in the love of God poured out through the Holy Spirit and in the communion of the Triune God who welcomes us into their exchange of love.

In his apostolic letter of 1994, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, Pope John Paul II wrote something about the Second Vatican Council that I think applies to movements and new communities: “In the history of the Church, the ‘old’ and the ‘new’ are always closely interwoven. The ‘new’ grows out of the ‘old’, and the ‘old’ finds a fuller expression in the ‘new’” (#18).

## POPE FRANCIS AND CHARIS

More recently, Pope Francis has affirmed the Renewal on a number of occasions and then, more explicitly, in 2019 in the establishment of CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) as “the international service organism for all expressions for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, a current of grace whose appearance in the Catholic Church in 1967 came as a

Here are seven “expectations,” as listed by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life in 2020 in a talk to leaders of CHARIS and others in Brazil, which “ground” CHARIS in its mission and the importance which the Church places on us:

- 1 The Holy Father expects permanent personal conversion to the love of Jesus, witnessed in a life grounded in the Gospel and consistent with it.
- 2 He expects us to share with all people in the Church the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- 3 He expects us to evangelize using the Word of God to proclaim that Jesus is Lord and that his love is for all people.
- 4 He expects us to be people of prayer and praise.
- 5 He expects us to be close to the poor and needy.
- 6 He expects us to give a witness of spiritual ecumenism, as something owed to our brothers and sisters in other churches and ecclesial communities.
- 7 He expects us to seek and foster unity within Catholic Charismatic Renewal, because such unity is the sign of the Spirit.

fruit of the Second Vatican Council” (CHARIS Statutes I Art 1.1). “CHARIS has been erected by the Holy See through the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, with public juridical personality according [to] [certain canons] of the Code of Canon Law” (*ibid* Statutes I Art 2.2).

CHARIS exists and breathes through the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, or it does not exist at all. [For more on the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, please refer to the new document issued earlier this year entitled *A Grace for the*

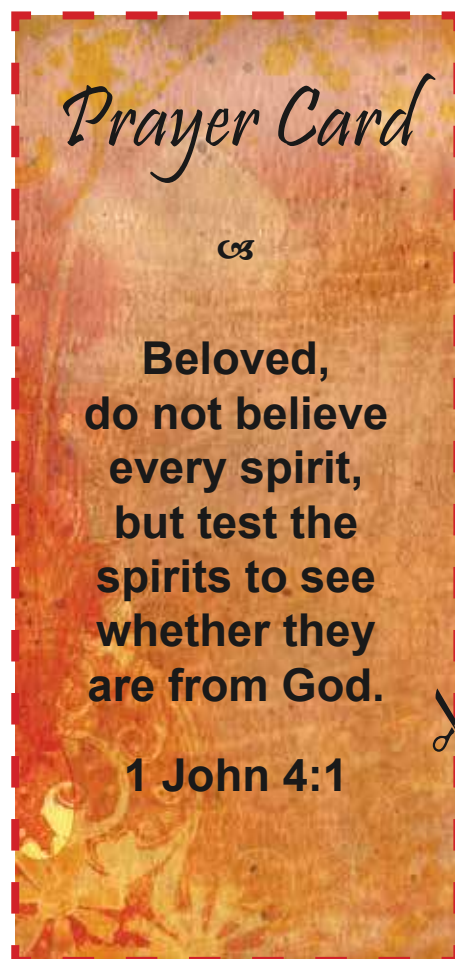
*Whole Church: Encountering the Holy Spirit through Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. It was written by a number of leaders in the Renewal and edited and published by CHARIS NSC USA. It can be ordered at: [www.PentecostTodayUSA.org](http://www.PentecostTodayUSA.org).

It exists, like the Renewal itself, to proclaim that “Jesus is Lord” which Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa has called “the charism of the Renewal.”

CHARIS has thirteen objectives, see <https://www.charis.international/wp-content/uploads/Statutes-CHARIS.pdf> to read their statutes. ♦



Walter Matthews is the former Executive Director for the NSC/Pentecost Today USA. He was recently elected to a second term on the CHARIS National Service of Communion USA.



# GRATITUDE TO GOD

by Bishop Peter Smith

**B**illy Graham said, “Gratitude is one of the greatest Christian virtues, ingratitude one of the most vicious sins.”

If all we did in prayer was to acknowledge the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and thank them, that would be sufficient prayer. Praise and thanksgiving are the right way to speak to God. However, we often don't thank God enough, or those around us either. We take so many good things for granted without acknowledging the real giver, the Lord.

We are all too often like the ten lepers in Luke's gospel who are healed by

Jesus. Ten were cleansed but only the Samaritan turned back to thank Jesus. Jesus responded to him, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” (Lk 17:11-18).

Listen again to Jesus: “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God?” We could rephrase this in so many ways for ourselves. St. Paul says to the Colossians, “Be thankful...and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col 3:15-17).

We should thank God again and again, every day, for everything. The Bible is packed with the language of gratitude. It teaches us how to express gratitude verbally. It's hard to find a psalm that doesn't contain thanks for something. We see gratitude throughout both the Old and the New Testaments. The word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word that means thanksgiving. So what ought we be thankful for? All kinds of things, most of them quite ordinary. We especially want to be thankful to Jesus and praise him for his mercy, faithfulness, and kindness. The Lord does so much for us, and we ought to be continually thankful.

We have some challenges in living out gratitude in our lives, including self-pity, anger, forgetfulness, and self-interest. So what practical steps can we take to show gratitude in our personal prayer? People who live gratitude in their lives have a true sense of humility, and an awareness of their dependence on God. They are continually reflecting on how

God has been present in their lives, how he is leading and encouraging them, and what he is doing for them.

Gratitude is actually a discipline that we can learn and that we can live. Henri Nouwen writes, “Gratitude goes beyond the mine and thine and acclaims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as the spontaneous response to gifts received, but now I realize gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is an effort to acknowledge that all I have and am is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.” The key is to acknowledge that all I have and all I am, is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy!

When we are grateful and thankful we end up with a greater reliance on the Lord. And that means we are more open to the Lord and his change for our lives. Mother Teresa writes, “I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ Ask yourself, ‘How has he loved me?’ Do I really love others in the same way? Unless this love is among us we could kill ourselves with work, and it will only be work, not love. And work without love is slavery.”

So let us be continually thankful for all God has done and is doing for us, and allow him to open our hearts even more to him. ♦



*Bishop Peter Smith is the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Portland and serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the curia. He recently completed a term on CHARIS International Service of Communion. He continues to work with CHARIS in other roles. Pope Francis recently approved his appointment as Ecclesiastical Assistant to CHARIS.*

BISHOP'S CORNER

## Intercessions

**May the HOLY SPIRIT 2033 Nine-Year Novena set the world on fire.**

**May CHARIS contribute to evangelization, serving the poor and Christian unity of the Church.**

**May our hearts overflow in gratitude to God in jubilant praise.**

# Time for Gratitude

by Jane Guenther

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons is an organization that exists to help those who serve their bishop as a liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in their diocese. A liaison is someone who helps groups in the Renewal work effectively with each other and communicates well to their bishop these various works. If you are interested in getting information on a job description as a liaison please contact us and we can send you some samples to help you set to work in your diocese or archdiocese with your bishop. Email our secretary Shelley Parkerson at sparkerson@cdlex.org.

Every year the new liaisons meet at the Convocation to learn ways of serving better. We thank Mick Michie for heading the session on “So You Are a New Liaison, Now What?” at our most recent Convocation. Holly and Adam Novotny, who attended last year's Convocation, gave witness this year after having been through the session with Mick last year. Thanks to all for their great work.

We have many talented liaisons and associate liaisons and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a couple more and express the Association's gratitude. G.K. Chesterton says, “I would maintain that thanks are the highest

form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” So in gratitude I thank Jackie Morgan, Associate Liaison for the Archdiocese of Portland, for tirelessly gathering together the articles for the newsletters for the association, always working to find one regional article, one homily, one event to highlight (national or Convocation), and one or two prophecies. Thanks to Fr. Chuck Wood who acted as editor for many years. We would also like to thank Mr. Jack Ardner for his publishing work. This Northwest Coast trio has been helping execute these newsletters for a long time and we are so grateful for all their years of service. The Steering Committee is looking for ways to implement the newsletter going forward. We would also like to thank Fr. Anthony Ouellette for being our treasurer and Holly Novotny, for taking on this position. We are grateful and so doubled by wonder! ♦



*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.*

## The Lord is so very personal with us!

by Janice Charbonnet

Our annual women's retreat, organized by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO), has always been an anointed weekend, but this past January had us more than a little awed. It was a weekend of abundance.

First, we noticed that an unprecedented number of “newcomers” were signing up. “We better plan on a bigger room for the Life in the Spirit session” was our first thought. We usually have 70-80 women in the breakout seminar and we thought we had better plan for over 100. “Wouldn't that be wonderful?” we dared to dream.

Following powerful preaching by Canadian Bishop Scott McCaig and keynote speaker Kitty Cleveland, we highly encouraged the newcomers to attend the after-lunch Life in the Spirit seminar. We

billied it as the session that could “change your life.” The afternoon carried on. I got busy in a separate session upstairs and was unaware of the headcount in the seminar, until I caught sight of a team member, breathless from bounding up the curving hotel staircase. “We're going to need way more people to come help us pray for baptism in the Spirit ... we have 220 women down there!”

It was wall-to-wall women, tables pushed up against walls, presenters perched on a tiny platform at the front. A ministry team member saw a vision (a new charism for her) of the crowd all clad in breastplate armor but also wearing high heels that crush serpents! The women cheered in the Spirit, and the imagery resonated with many of them. Perhaps the Lord is impressing upon us the beauty and power of our feminine nature. One doesn't leave one's femininity

behind when joining the Lord's army. Judith of the Old Testament comes to mind, doesn't she?

Needless to say, the praise Saturday night was full of energy and exaltation! The list of graces recorded on the feedback forms from the women was remarkably varied. It was as if 450 women each had a personal retreat but in a group setting. The Lord is so very personal with us!

Join us in praying for these women who received new armor and marching orders in the Kingdom! Praise the Lord! ♦



*Janice Charbonnet helps organize the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat with CCRNO. She is a happy wife and homeschooling mother originally from Canada but now living in Louisiana. Her faith was saved by the writings of Pope John Paul II on women.*



## Desire One Thing Alone

by Sr. Sarah Rose Dent, TOR

The Holy Spirit can definitely work in interesting and surprising ways. Like having five college students and two religious sisters found a new religious community. This was the beginning of my community, the Franciscan Sisters, TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother. The college women were attending Franciscan University of Steubenville and felt called to a Franciscan way of life with a spirituality of being at the foot of the cross with Mary. One of the TOR (Third Order Regular) friars on campus recognized that they all felt called to the same spirituality and got them together, feeling it was a work of the Holy Spirit.

We were founded in 1988, during a time when Charismatic Renewal was bringing renewal to the Catholic Church and to the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, through the leadership of Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR. The women decided to include praise and worship as a part of their prayer at the beginning of our community, being open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit in these times. This prayer of praise has continued to this day, with three times of communal praise and intercession every week. In the early days of the community, the sisters had about a half hour of praise every morning beginning at 5:00 a.m.! (This was later changed to midday or evening, praise the Lord!) The sisters also attended the local covenant community teachings as part of their community formation.

When I was discerning religious life and visited religious communities, I knew I would love to be in a community that was charismatic—because that’s how I came to know God in a personal way and I wanted to keep that encounter alive.

In our Third Order Rule of St. Francis, St. Francis of Assisi says, “Let the brothers and sisters always be mindful that they should desire one thing alone... the Spirit of God at

work within them.” This is one of our aspirations and goals in life, coupled with the Third Order call to ongoing conversion, a work of the Holy Spirit within us.

I am not surprised when I’m out with a sister and someone asks us for prayers (we love this!) and she’ll say, “Why don’t we pray right now?” I love this culture of prayer with each other that we try to cultivate in the everyday moments of life. God is always reaching out to us and every moment can be a moment of encounter.

How is the Holy Spirit working in us now? I would say firstly, He works in our call to “assiduous union with God in prayer” (Canon Law 663) – our contemplative life. That relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit is the birthplace for any good He decides to work in or through us. I would say a gift from the Holy Spirit that we have as a community is being present, particularly being present to others in their suffering. We accompany college students in their search for and relationship with God. We accompany those who are poor by listening, praying with, and helping them as we can through Urban Mission’s services in Steubenville. We are spiritual directors, speakers, and spiritual mothers. We want to be with God’s people.

Being open to how God is working is a constant process. The more we follow the Holy Spirit, the more He makes our calls alive and fresh and allows us to respond creatively to the needs of the moment. ♦

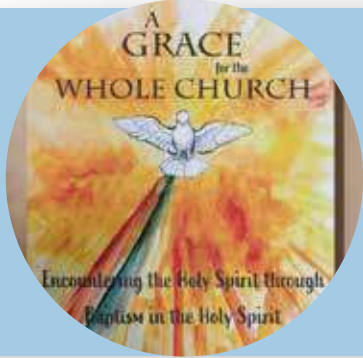


*Sr. Sarah Rose Dent, TOR is a member of the Franciscan Sisters, TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother and serves as the Media Assistant in the Mission Advancement department. She has been in the community for 15 years and has served in college campus ministry, formation, and work with the poor.*



# 2023 Pentecost Today USA Highlights *Come, Holy Spirit!*

We praise the Lord for how the work of the Holy Spirit in our nation is being fueled by each mighty Prayer Warrior, Volunteer, Partner, and our 70+ Consultants, Board, Council, and Team Members whose mighty prayers, sacrificial support, and tireless work are advancing our mission. Glory to God for these graces of 2023. Veni, Creator Spiritus! -In the unending Love of our Heavenly Father, Alicia Hartle, Executive Director, Pentecost Today USA (National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the US)



**1** Promotion and distribution of the new **CHARIS USA** book, *A Grace for the Whole Church: Encountering the Holy Spirit through Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.



**2** **Renewal Fellowship Groups** launched for **Clergy, Religious, Worship Leaders, Prayer Groups, Renewal Offices & Centers** to meet in person and online to: 1) **CONNECT** with others from across the nation, 2) **PRAY** with and for each other, and 3) **SHARE** needs and ideas.

**3** Honored and blessed **Ron and Terry Riggins** at Jesus 2023. Ron served as Chairman of the Board and was instrumental in our purchase of The Ark and The Dove Worldwide and launch of our new name, logo, and location, and Holy Spirit 2033 Novena.



**4** Supported the launch of the first **Brazilian National Leaders of the US Meeting**. Prayer meeting locations and times for all realities of the Renewal can now be found and shared at [PentecostTodayUSA.org/database](https://PentecostTodayUSA.org/database).



**5** **Pentecost Today Podcast** launched with 5k+ downloads in 40+ countries in first 4 months and now listed on EWTN's podcast page. Features testimonies of the impact of baptism in the Holy Spirit and the charismatic gifts.



**6** Celebrated **first public Mass at Stones Folly Foundation** in Topeka, Kansas - birthplace of the Pentecostal Movement on January 1, 1901, within 24 hours of Pope Leo XIII praying *Veni, Creator Spiritus* and consecrating the 20th Century to the Holy Spirit.

**7** In 2023, the **Renewal Leaders Facebook Group** grew from 730 to 1.2k members with participants sharing and connecting from across the nation.



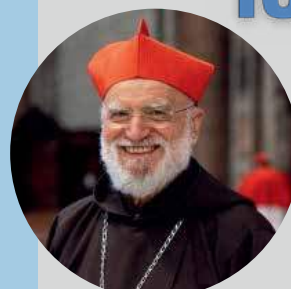
**8** **CHARIS International, Duquesne University Prayer Group, People of Praise and North American Network of Covenant Communities, and Desert Stream Ministry** panelists spoke at *Jesus 2023: National Leaders Meeting*.



**9** Created 88 short videos as cohosts of the **CHARIS International Integral Formation Program** worldwide courses in 2022 & 2023. Served as an emcee at the *1st CHARIS International Event in Rome*. Received a blessing from *Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa* we pray extends to all called into the work of the Renewal in our nation.



**10** **Renewal Fellows Program** developed with consultation from scholars, theologians, and Renewal Leaders including Jane Guenther, Dr. John Gresham, Dr. Alan Schreck, Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB, Fr. John Horn, SJ (cofounder of the Institute of Priestly Formation), and Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.



# HOLY SPIRIT 2033

READY TO LIVE IN THE POWER AND LOVE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?  
JOIN THE NINE-YEAR NOVENA.

## The Need


In the world, it is estimated that **17% of Roman Catholic Christians** (160 million) and **25% of all Christians** (600 million) have received the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. In the United States alone, just over 6 of 10 people identify as Christian. Imagine each one receiving and sharing LIFE in the SPIRIT!

### Renewal in the USA

Renewal Leaders bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

 **2000+**  
Prayer Groups

 **92+**  
Renewal Offices & Centers

 **97+**  
Covenant Communities

 **16+**  
Religious Orders

 **160+**  
Renewal Ministries

## Our Mission

Our mission is to raise up, connect, and equip Renewal Leaders to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the Body of Christ, **SERVE** the Poor.

## HOLY SPIRIT 2033 NOVENA

The **Holy Spirit 2033: Nine-Year Novena** is a call to prayer and action in unity for a new and ongoing Pentecost through:



**National**  
Intercession,  
Fellowship, &  
Working Groups



**Regional** Prayer  
Meetings,  
Formation, &  
Discussion Forums



**Local** Prayer  
Meetings, Life in  
the Spirit Series, &  
Jericho Marches

## THE PRAYER

Pray "COME, HOLY SPIRIT" at 9:00 each morning and pray the **Weekly Novena Prayers each Sunday until Pentecost 2033**, which is the 2000-year anniversary of the birth of the Church at Pentecost!

## JOIN THE NINE-YEAR NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER & [ACTION]

1

### [In the Renewal] Receive the Love of the Father

- **2024** - Prayer Groups and Renewal Offices & Centers
- **2025** - Covenant Communities and Prayer Networks
- **2026** - Ministries born out of the Renewal

2

### [In the Church] Surrender to Jesus as Lord & Savior

- **2027** - Pastors & Leaders (Clergy, Religious, & Seminarians)
- **2028** - Regions, Dioceses, Movements
- **2029** - Local Church Ministries (RCIA, Faith Formation, etc)

3

### [In the World] Receive the Holy Spirit & Charisms

- **2030** - Families, Children, Youth, Young Adults
- **2031** - Neighborhoods, Workplaces, Schools
- **2032** - Cultural (Media), Social, Political Spheres



Veni Creator Spiritus

# HOLY SPIRIT 2033

## WEEKLY NOVENA PRAYER

PRAY ON SUNDAY WITH A FRIEND, FAMILY, OR GROUP

### OPENING PRAYER

Sign of the Cross  
O God, come to my assistance.  
O Lord, make haste to help me.  
Glory to the Father...

### VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,  
and in our souls take up Thy rest;  
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid  
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,  
O heavenly gift of God Most High,  
O fount of life and fire of love,  
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;  
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;  
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou  
Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,  
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;  
with patience firm and virtue high  
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,  
and grant us Thy peace instead;  
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,  
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow  
the Father and the Son to know;  
and Thee, through endless times confessed,  
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,  
Who rose from death, be glory given,  
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,  
henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen

### 2024 NOVENA PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit. Pour out a new and ongoing Pentecost in me, and in [name individuals, groups, places], and in the Renewal, the Church, and the world.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fall afresh on us that we might receive an experience of the Love of the Father and fully surrender to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with Your power and presence. Transform us with Your *sanctifying gifts* to make us holy, and equip us with Your *charismatic gifts* for the building up of the Church, and the evangelization of the world. Create in us a new heart, that we may be conformed to Your will, and be one in Christ.

Loving Father, grant us *expectant faith*. Enkindle in us Your Holy Spirit that we may more deeply receive, understand, and share *baptism in the Holy Spirit* and the *charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit*. Raise up, anoint, equip, and unite new and existing **Prayer Groups and Renewal Offices & Centers\*** to ignite a new and ongoing Pentecost in our nation.

Come, Holy Spirit! Grant us the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and fill us with joy and strength when we are weak, perseverance and zeal when we are tired, and holy boldness as we testify and proclaim the Word. Come, Lord Jesus. We ask this of our Father, in union with the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*\*Beginning on Pentecost 2025: Covenant Communities & Prayer Networks and beginning on Pentecost 2026: Ministries & Outreaches of the Renewal*

### CLOSING PRAYER

Come, O Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.  
Send forth your Spirit,  
and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.  
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit  
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



*Veni, Creator Spiritus*

# HOLY SPIRIT 2033

MAY 18, 2024 @ 8PM EST

## NINE-YEAR NOVENA LAUNCH

PENTECOST VIGIL MASS &  
ALL-NIGHT PENTECOST VIGIL  
AT THE ARK AND THE DOVE CHAPEL  
JOIN LIVE OR WATCH THE RECORDING  
[WWW.PENTECOSTTODAYUSA.ORG/HS2033](http://WWW.PENTECOSTTODAYUSA.ORG/HS2033)



ONLINE & IN PERSON  
@ NET MINISTRIES CENTER

**ST. PAUL, MN**  
**OCT 25-27, 2024**

*Be Aglow with the Spirit*

charismatic prayer workshop  
healing service  
with prayer ministry  
fellowship social  
all night adoration  
with praise & worship



NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING & CONFERENCE

# HOLY SPIRIT 2024



[PENTECOSTTODAYUSA.ORG/HS2024](http://PENTECOSTTODAYUSA.ORG/HS2024)

Brought to you by the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the US dba Pentecost Today USA in partnership with the Association of Diocesan Liaisons and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office & Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis. All are welcome.

# Be Aglow with the Spirit!

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger, SSND

The Holy Spirit 2024: National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Leaders' Conference will be held at the NET Ministries Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 25-27, 2024. The theme is *Be Aglow with the Spirit* from Romans 12:11, and we are overjoyed to welcome Renewal Leaders and those they invite to St. Paul for a time to pray, connect, and be equipped by the Holy Spirit!

The weekend will include a charismatic prayer workshop, healing service with prayer ministry, a fellowship social for leaders, and optional all night Eucharistic Adoration. Our keynote speakers will be Mary Healy, author and professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary; Bishop Peter Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Portland and CHARIS ecclesial Assistant, and Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In February in preparation for the conference, members of the planning team met and prayed with Archbishop Bernard Hebda and the leadership of the local CCRO Board, People of Praise, Community of Christ the Redeemer, St. Paul's Outreach, Companions of Christ and Emmanuel Community.



Left to right: Roxanne Felder, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Aicia Hartle and Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger.

What is the "grace of the place" for the 2024 conference? It is a greenhouse of the Holy Spirit! Throughout the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, baptism in the Holy Spirit is being brought to the whole Church. At the culmination of a three-year synodal process in 2022, Archbishop Bernard Hebda wrote a Post-Synodal Pastoral Letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In the letter, he invites all people in the archdiocese to enter the Upper Room through engagement with charismatic groups and ministries, appointing a Vicar of Charisms, launching small groups and evangelization teams at parishes, Archdiocesan Life in the Spirit Seminars, and formation at an archdiocesan School of Charism Discovery. Read or listen to Archbishop Hebda read the Pastoral Letter here: [www.archspm.org/synodletter/](http://www.archspm.org/synodletter/). Visit [www.PentecostTodayUSA.org/Newsbrief](http://www.PentecostTodayUSA.org/Newsbrief) to learn more and see the full article. ♦

SPOTLIGHT

## In Memoriam

### Stephen Bruce Clark

June 1, 1940 – March 16, 2024



In 1971, Steve Clark was a founding board member of the **National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the US** (now known as **Pentecost Today USA**).

He was a pioneer and intellectual leader of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from the time of its earliest days. He wrote some of the early Catholic literature regarding baptism in the Spirit including the **Life in the Spirit Seminars** book. He authored and compiled more than twenty books and several hundred articles, many having a profound impact on the development of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and its communities.

Steve was a founding member of **The Word of God** charismatic covenant community and the founding president of **The Sword of the Spirit**, which now consists of more than 82 communities

around the world with over 12,500 adult members and 5,000 children. He was also a founding member and leader of a lay ecumenical brotherhood called **The Servants of the Word**, having more than ten households in six countries.

Steve was a spiritual father, brother and friend to many. We pray that he now sings, "Glad are my heart and my soul... in your presence the fullness of joy" from "For You Are My God," the closing hymn of his funeral.

### Charles Simpson

April 6, 1937 - February 14, 2024



Charles Simpson, a Southern Baptist, was a friend to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from early days.

He was baptized in the Spirit in 1964, only to find out that his spiritual experience was unacceptable to the leaders of his denomination. Charles was welcomed,

however, among Catholics in his native Mobile, Alabama.

After the "Duquesne Weekend" Charles came to know and identify with major leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In 1977 when Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens invited Ralph Martin, Steve Clark and others to the Vatican to meet Pope Paul VI, Charles and other ecumenical leaders were invited to join them.

Charles' relationship with Catholics continued to grow. He was a keynote speaker at the National Service Committee Leaders' Conference in Virginia in 2015. When, later that year, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal purchased The Ark and The Dove, it was natural to invite Charles as an ecumenical member of the board. He had a deep respect for the Church and his Catholic friends. He understood the vision and the mission. In this way he enhanced the unity sought by this board. His godly wisdom was invaluable. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal will greatly miss his presence. ♦

# Discerning Spirits with A Listening Heart: Naturally or Supernaturally Knowing Good from Evil

by Megan Kruger

Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil (1 Kgs 3:9a).

CHARISMS

When I was in high school, a friend of mine used to talk about “common sense”—the idea that you should use your perception of a situation or facts in order to make a sound judgment. King Solomon expressed “common sense” as a need to discern good from evil (1 Kgs 3:9a).

The ability to know good from evil is called discernment. To some extent, each person has this ability. God provided early believers with the Ten Commandments to navigate and discern rightly. Christians receive further revelation in knowing Jesus, Scripture and their Christian faith. Many make use of St. Ignatius of Loyola’s “Rules of Discernment.” These rules and tenets are genuinely helpful and provide a foundation to natural discernment, but they only go so far.

King Solomon is famous for his God-given gift of discernment. What made King Solomon stand out from the rest? He had a heightened sense of good and evil. His discernment was supernatural because God *revealed* good and evil to Solomon. The Lord was so pleased with Solomon’s request to distinguish right from wrong that He gave him “a heart so wise and understanding that there has

never been anyone like him” (1 Kgs 3:12). He was granted a supernatural gift of wisdom and discernment that was beyond human understanding. The charism of discernment of spirits can only be revealed to a person by God. It is not an educated guess. Those who have this charism rely on the Lord’s strength and revelation.

The charism of discerning spirits, or “distinguishing” spirits, is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit described in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Discernment of spirits acknowledges there is more than one kind of spirit. The three primary spirits operating include the **Holy Spirit** (good spirit), the antichrist (**evil spirit**), and the **human spirit**.

The **Holy Spirit** desires to make us holy, and seeks to help us turn toward God. When the Holy Spirit works, the soul becomes inflamed with love of God. The fruit is an increase in virtue such as an interior joy or an increase in faith, hope and love. The Holy Spirit gives us strength and leads us toward the Truth.

The **evil spirit(s)** seek to tempt us and to get us to sin. The primary objective of evil is to turn us away from God. The enemy will agitate us, make us sad or anxious, keep our sins and struggles hidden, weaken our will and capitalize on personal struggles. He attacks us when we are weak. He will capitalize on our fears and doubts. Evil spirits do not discriminate—they do not care if you are old or young, healthy or ill. Evil spirits try to keep us from going to church, discourage our prayer life and provoke us to choose sin and vice.

Humans are neither angelic nor divine. Therefore, the **human spirit** is unique

and distinct from the other two mentioned, which manifest as good or evil. The human spirit often gets overlooked in discernment of spirits, both naturally and supernaturally. For instance, a human spirit can sometimes attribute a spiritual cause to something natural. Let’s say you forget to lock the barnyard gate and consequently your cow gets out while you are at Mass. When you realize the cow is gone, you say, “It’s spiritual warfare—the evil one wanted to take my cow while I was at church!” This is likely a false conclusion because it was human error that caused the cow to get out.

Distinguishing which spirit is operating requires discernment.

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist” (1 Jn 4:1-3).*

Some people have a special anointing in discernment of spirits and use their gift for inner healing or deliverance ministries. Experience, humility, accountability, and accuracy may further lead to a greater understanding of the charism, although it is God who will confirm and show a person the supernatural. As with other revealed gifts (words of knowledge and wisdom), each grows according to God’s measure.



Megan Kruger, MA, spends her time as a certified spiritual director, guiding people through Ignatian Retreats and inner healing prayer. She has served on the Board for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and

Minneapolis. She currently resides in Denver, Colorado with her husband Brian.

## St. John Vianney

Strange noises could be heard at the parish rectory where St. John Vianney lived. After a night of tapping, his sister Marguerite, who had been visiting and felt scared, asked John about it.

*Oh, my child, you should not have been frightened: It is the Grappin [pitchfork of the devil]. He cannot hurt you. As for me, he torments me in sundry ways. At times, he seizes me by the feet and drags me about the room. It is because I convert souls to the good God.* (Francis Trochu, *The Cure d'Ars...*, p 259, Tan Books, p 259)

St. John Vianney, also known as the Curé d'Ars, was a French priest who lived during the French Revolution (1786-1859). He overcame many hardships in life, including expulsion from the seminary in Lyon because of poor Latin skills, enrollment in the

French army, poor health, and getting lost on the way to his first parish assignment.

Vianney's bed caught on fire on February 24, 1857. When reported to him, he replied: *He couldn't catch the bird, so he has burned the cage. It is a good sign. We will have many souls (sinners) this day.* (Trochu, pp 255, 262-263) Exercising the charism of discernment of spirits, Vianney assessed that the devil was retaliating against him. The fire did not deter St. John Vianney from hearing thousands of confessions over his lifetime and knowing the hearts of those who waited hours to receive absolution and God's grace. His bed is a relic. May his fight against evil encourage all of us to fulfill our personal vocation to holiness!

## St. Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) was a twin and the youngest child of a large family. At age six, she devoted herself to the service of Jesus Christ when she received a mystical vision. St. Catherine was a candid saint who confronted many errors of the faith in her day. Her ability to distinguish truth from deception signals us of her natural ability to discern spirits. In *The Dialogue*, St. Catherine shares, *Discernment is that light which dissolves all darkness, dissipates ignorance, and seasons every virtue and virtuous deed—it also overcomes the devil and the flesh.*

Holiness is the greatest deterrent to the devil. As a Dominican tertiary and through a rich life of prayer, she grew in holiness which extended to those she served. With a deepening spiritual life and with God's grace, St. Catherine came to possess the charism of discernment of spirits along with other supernatural phenomena including the stigmata and prolonged periods of fasting. It was said that she could deliver people from their afflictions. Although she is best known for theological and spiritual insights as a doctor of the Church, St. Catherine is less known for her role as an exorcist. Even the priests would send possessed people to her because she could help them find freedom. She did not desire this, saying, *Alas! Every day I am tormented by evil spirits: do you think I want anybody else's?* According to Blessed Raymond of Capua, Satan himself called St. Catherine of Siena, *the greatest enemy I have in the whole world* (*The Life of St. Catherine of Siena*, Tan Books, 2003, pp. 218, 222).

While at St. Peter's tomb and months before her death, St. Catherine felt a great weight fall upon her. Her dying wish was to see renewal in the Church through the sacrifice of her own life, passion and death. ♦

**CHRISTIAN**  
*Forum*  
**UNITY**

June 26-29, 2024

**ALLELUIA FORUM FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & RENEWAL**

Alleluia Community, Augusta, Georgia  
Registration & information at  
<https://unityforum2024.org>  
Free housing available on first come basis

Speakers include: Msgr. Juan Usma Gomez,  
Vatican Dicastery for Christian Unity

Email Dan Almeter with questions  
[dkalmeter@gmail.com](mailto:dkalmeter@gmail.com)

## 2024 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Welcome to **Deacon Ralph Poyo**, who is our new **Chairman of the Board!** Following the 2024 Election, Deacon Ralph Poyo began his new role as Chairman of the Board after serving as Chair-elect for one year alongside Ron Riggins. He began his time of serving and leading with a powerful homily, preaching on unity at the CHARIS USA National Assembly. Glory to God in the highest for his YES to serve and lead.

## 2024 ELECTION

We praise the Lord for the mighty grace of the **re-election** of two members to our Board of Directors: **John Beaulieu** of Steubenville, OH (**Chair of Evangelization**) and **John Hutchins** of Greensburg, PA (**Chair of Finance**), and the election of our **new Board Members** who recently received appointments as follows:



**Fr. John Gordon** of Union, NJ (**Chair of Unity**): Director, Office for Evangelization, Archdiocese of Newark and Community member of People of Hope Catholic Charismatic Community since 1980.



**Dr. John Gresham** of Punta Gorda, FL (**Chair of Renewal Fellows Program**): Author, Spiritual Director, Professor of Theology, Director at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI, and instructor of the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, NE.



**Mary Wilson** of Jonesville, LA (**Chair of Structures and Processes**): Officer for the Magnificat Central Service Team; worship leader of Apple of His Eye Prayer Group since the 1980s; and retired high school principal, coach, and teacher.



**Timmy McCaffery** of Kenner, LA (**Chair of Events**): Executive Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office of New Orleans; former assistant Director of Marriage and Family Life, Archdiocese of New Orleans; prior roles in archdiocesan schools and parishes.

We magnify the Lord for the appointments to Chair accepted by these **continuing Board Members**:

- ◆ **Dan Dirkes** – Chair of the Membership Committee
- ◆ **Fr. Killian Loch, OSB** – Chair of the Development Committee
- ◆ **Lauretta Froelich** – Chair of the Holy Spirit 2033 Novena Team
- ◆ **Bill Snyder** – Chair of the Podcast Team

We express our heartfelt gratitude to each one of the board members who completed their terms in January 2024: **Jim Beckman, Charles “Mick” Michie, Ron Riggins, and Annie Sarlo** have dedicated their time, prayer, and expertise to our mission and work. Their contributions have been invaluable.

Visit [PentecostTodayUSA.org/Newsbrief](https://PentecostTodayUSA.org/Newsbrief) to meet the newly appointed **Moses and Joshua Leadership Team Members**.

## CHARIS USA



The CHARIS USA National Assembly, held on January 15-16, 2024, included the Board Members of Pentecost Today USA and approximately 45 Renewal Leaders from across the nation. These leaders represented diverse realities within the Renewal. As they gathered in prayer and unity, they prayed about how the Lord is inviting us to prepare for 2033. Meet the CHARIS USA Members at: [www.charisusa.org/](http://www.charisusa.org/)

## CHARIS INTERNATIONAL

**Assembly & Election** - The first *CHARIS International*



*Assembly and Election* took place on October 29-31, 2023, in Rome. Renewal Leaders came together in unity from throughout the world to pray, intercede, seek the Lord, and establish the CHARIS International Service of Communion

through the first-ever election. See the members at: [charis.international/en/international-service-of-communion/](https://charis.international/en/international-service-of-communion/)

**New Ecclesiastical Assistant** - Last November, in Rome,



Cardinal  
Cantalamessa

Bishop  
Peter Smith

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa announced his retirement from serving as the ecclesiastical assistant. With the approval of the Holy Father, the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life—which established CHARIS—appointed Monsignor

Peter Leslie Smith as the new ecclesiastical assistant of our Service, starting February 12, 2024.

## FIND AND SHARE RENEWAL EVENTS & GROUPS

- ◆ Looking to find or share regional events including Life in the Spirit series, Healing Retreats, Unbound Conferences, Regional Conferences? Visit [pentecosttodayusa.org/events/](https://pentecosttodayusa.org/events/).
- ◆ Need to find or share a local Prayer Meeting, Diocesan Liaison, Renewal Office or Center, Covenant Community, Unbound Team, or Magnificat Chapter? Visit [pentecosttodayusa.org/database/](https://pentecosttodayusa.org/database/). ◆



# EVANGELIZATION in the HOME

by Casey Sprehe

If family life is an initiation into life in society (CCC 2207), then evangelization starts at home. Family life prepares one for life in the world. Put another way, “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family” (Mother Teresa).

Several years ago, Jesus made it very clear to me to stop doing outside ministry for a while and focus on my family. Many people have struck the balance of doing both, but at the time, I couldn’t. Little did I know that Jesus was asking me to let it go so I could receive five kids in ten years and be free to take care of my husband when he got sick. It was a difficult transition but one in which I clearly saw God working.

Something I have painfully learned is that I can’t save the world while neglecting my family. Saints aren’t known as servants to most and a bitter wife and mom to others. More often than I care to admit, my family is getting my leftovers. They deserve better.

As I’ve shifted to focus more on my family, I’ve noticed opportunities to evangelize are not lacking. I have plenty of chances to evangelize my kids by how I respond to life’s circumstances. This is where kids learn character formation—for better or for worse. They pick up both my good and bad behaviors.

Evangelizing our family starts with loving the family I’m given, not the one I’ve idealized. It’s hard to love them joyfully always, but the cross isn’t easy. We worship the God-man who was scourged and nailed to the cross, not a Lazy Boy recliner Jesus.

I offer three guideposts to evangelizing at home: personal prayer, family prayer and reverse mentoring.

First, personal prayer: I can’t give what I don’t have. I pray in the morning, as this may be the only time I can have a continuous, uninterrupted thought. Daily, I need to drink from the Living Water so these dry, sinful bones can live (Ez 37). Constant, mental prayer also reminds me there is a spiritual element to what I’m doing. I’m frequently asking the Holy Spirit to come—to give me patience with a child, to be with us as we go to an extracurricular, to be before me as I discipline, etc. Daily prayer fills me with what I need to minister to my children. It also models for them how to pray and shows them my dependency on God.

Next, family prayer throughout our day gives our children Catholic guideposts. This means adjusting our family life and calendar to the life and calendar of the Church. As such, we feast and we fast. I grew up in America and do American things. Even more so, I was baptized Catholic and do Catholic things. This is my culture—one I’m trying to hold onto and pass down to my kids, especially when the American culture looks vastly different. It’s important to me that we don’t let it die, so we normalize the faith and make it fun. We are our children’s first experience of God, so my hope is that it’s a joyful one.

Lastly, I propose reverse mentoring. By digging deep into my kids’ skill sets and desires, I validate for them the gifts God gave them. I find out what they are good at and have them teach me. It helps



Casey Sprehe and family

give them purpose and meaning within the family. It communicates to them that I’m humble and teachable. My oldest daughter has a love for baking which started out small when she was younger. But now, I’ve offloaded almost all the family baking onto her. She shines. She brings an offering to the family and shares her talents with us.

There’s a big world to evangelize that desperately needs the message of Jesus. There’s also a little world inside the home to which we must bring the same message. ♦



*Casey Sprehe first experienced the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit at a retreat in 2000. It was there her Catholic faith came fully alive. Casey earned a master’s degree in Catechesis and Evangelization at The Augustine Institute.*

*Over the past fifteen years Casey has traveled the country speaking on matters of faith. Today Casey and her husband Kevin and their children are active members of their parish in Louisiana.*



## From the Executive Director

by Alicia Hartle

*“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:5*

I will never forget the first time I heard news of CHARIS and the CHARIS-commission proclaimed in 2019. Each time I share this news, my initial awe is renewed, and I am reminded of the profound call the Holy Spirit stirs in each one of us to participate in God’s work:

- 1. **CHARIS Erection:** The Holy See, through the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, officially erected CHARIS with public juridical personality (see pages 3-5).
- 2. **Our New Mission:** Inspired by the 2019 CHARIS Commission, the Holy Father exhorted CHARIS and all who have received the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to:
  - BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.
  - BUILD unity in the body of Christ.
  - SERVE the poor.

Here are some of the many responses I have witnessed as I have shared this monumental news:

- **October 2020:** “Years ago I received words in prayer that there would be a new outpouring of the Spirit in the Catholic Church and that I would live to see it. And now I have,” said Katie Burt through tears of joy in October of 2020, just after I shared news of CHARIS and our CHARIS-inspired mission. About one year later, Catherine “Katie” Burt passed away at the age of 88. Katie was a cofounder of the *Pittsburgh Prayer Network*, an ecumenical prayer network of pastors and churches committed to saturating the city of Pittsburgh in 24/7 prayer. She also organized ecumenical events including 20k+ person March for Jesus in Pittsburgh in the 1990s. Though Katie was not a member of a Roman Catholic Church, she was a witness of the early days of the CCR in Pittsburgh.
- **In July 2021,** a devout bishop, initially skeptical of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), invited me into his office. During our two-hour conversation, we discussed CHARIS and the Renewal Timeline (featured in *Pentecost Today Magazine 2021: Issue 2, Page 9*). The timeline highlights the fall of Christendom, the return of the Apostolic Age, and the widespread experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit and charismatic gifts among believers as in the early Church. The bishop’s response was: **“This is for everyone!”**

- **April 2022:** After hearing about CHARIS, seeing the Renewal Timeline, and hearing highlights of work of the Holy Spirit today, one among a group of priests exclaimed, **“Lord, make us heralds of this good news!”** I later learned that his father had been raised from the dead in the early days of the CCR.
- **January 2023:** While waiting in line at the Pittsburgh airport, a young mother struck up a conversation with me. When she asked about my work, I explained that I serve the CCR. Surprisingly, she said, **“I’m Catholic, and I’ve never heard of the CCR.”** I shared about the CCR and our CHARIS-inspired mission. Despite her degree in engineering and current employment, by the end of our brief conversation, she inquired, **“Are you hiring?”**

I was shocked and deeply inspired by each of these remarkable responses— their responses of expectant faith, extraordinary receptivity, and an almost immediate embrace of our mission is strikingly similar to that of the devout Jews on the day of Pentecost.

Blessed Elena Guerra, soon to be declared a Saint, wrote: **“Pentecost is not over. In fact, it is continually going on in every time and in every place because the Holy Spirit desires to give Himself to all people. Those who seek Him can always receive Him. We need not envy the Apostles and the first believers; we only need to open our hearts to receive Him well, and He will come to us as He did to them.”**

As we embark on the *Holy Spirit 2033 Nine-Year Novena*, we are opening our hearts to receive and share the Holy Spirit like the Apostles and first believers on the day of Pentecost. You and I are alive for such a time as this!

Throughout the *Holy Spirit 2033 Nine-Year Novena* we will pray together for a **new and ongoing Pentecost in the**

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**Renewal, the Church, and the world** leading up to the 2000th Anniversary of the birth of the Church at Pentecost in 2033. Those joining the novena include individuals, groups, and entire parishes from cities and towns across the USA and around the world.

Will you ask the Lord if and how you are called to join (and share!) the novena? The novena prayer is simply:

- **Daily Prayer:** At 9:00 AM each day, simply pray: “Come, Holy Spirit.” This consistent prayer unites us in anticipation and openness to the Spirit’s work.
- **Weekly Novena Prayer:** Additionally, every Sunday, join in the weekly Novena prayer. This collective cry echoes across time and space, inviting the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in our lives and in the Church.
- **RSVP to join the Novena and find Prayer Guide, Prayer Cards, and more at:** [PentecostTodayUSA.org/HS2033](http://PentecostTodayUSA.org/HS2033)

We praise and magnify the Lord for you, and pray for the FIRE of God’s almighty love and power to be ignited in the entire Body of Christ as we journey together toward Pentecost 2033.

May the weight of glory poured out into the world through Steve Clark’s and Charles Simpson’s lives and ministries (see page 13) inspire us. May the expectant faith and intercession of Katie Burt, so like that of Simeon and Anna, be ignited in our hearts. May we be spurred on to receive and share the Holy Spirit in glory as the novena brings the entirety of our CHARIS-inspired mission and work into a posture of prayer and expectant faith. Come, Holy Spirit! ♦

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

## To Heal their Broken Hearts

by John Hutchins



**D**uring the last five years I have had a strong sense of the power of God moving through his Church, empowering the Body of Christ to bring healing to hurting members, and impressing the truth of his love on every heart, particularly through the gift of the Eucharist.

A few years ago, my wife and I attended a retreat at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Fr. Shawn Anderson, OSB, invited us, along with members of Peter’s Shadow ministry, to participate in a time of healing prayer centered on the Eucharistic presence of Jesus. During this powerful ministry, one of the leaders of the Living Praise Worship Team experienced a major healing. This event birthed Hem of His Garment healing ministry in the Greensburg diocese. Assisted by Peter’s Shadow, the first Night of Healing hosted by Hem of His Garment had over 400 attendees, many of whom experienced healing.

God’s children are scattered and wounded in so many ways: physically, mentally, and spiritually. God wants his children to know him, to know that the Eucharist is truly him in person, and that he loves all his children. Just as God is bringing together the bishops of his Church to lead a three-year Eucharistic Revival of his Church, so he is urging the members of his Body to draw his children to his heart, so that he can heal them and bring them home.

Recently, I sensed the Holy Spirit giving me these words and I believe God is speaking this to every member of his Body: “My heart pours out for my children; they are coming to you with broken hearts. Take them by the hand and lead them to me. It is my desire to heal their broken hearts.” ♦

*John Hutchins is a Board Member of Pentecost Today USA. He and his wife Kim are the liaisons for the diocese of Greensburg Pennsylvania.*



## To Our Partners

We are humbled to honor each partner in our mission—thank you to each FIRE STARTER, FIRE SUSTAINER, and to each of our Legacy of Fire Fellowship

Members!! Your mighty prayers and sacrificial support are igniting the POWER and LOVE of the Holy Spirit in our nation and all around the world as we raise up, connect, and equip Renewal Leaders in the Church and in the world together.

In a particular way, we honor **Ron Riggins**, who served our mission and work for ten years as a Council Member, Board Member, and Chairman of the Board. Ron played a pivotal role in major initiatives of the NSC/Pentecost

Today USA including the purchase and establishment of a new organization *The Ark and The Dove Worldwide, Inc.*, and the adoption of a new mission which led to the discernment and adoption of a new name, and logo. Ron was also instrumental in the relocation of the Chariscenter Office from Locust Grove, Virginia to the Dove building at *The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center*. Ron Riggins and his wife Terry Riggins were honored and blessed at the *Jesus 2023: National Leaders Meeting*. (see picture on front cover)

To Ron and Terry Riggins and to each Partner supporting our mission through precious offerings of time, talent, and treasure—You are making an impact that shines as a beacon for all who yearn to pass on the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to younger generations and to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church. We treasure you, your prayers, your commitment, and your service. ♦

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



# PENTECOST Today

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*Veni, Creator Spiritus*

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all night  
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with praise  
& worship



NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING & CONFERENCE

## HOLY SPIRIT 2024



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