

ADL NEWSLETTER

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Inside This Issue

Editor's Reflection - Report on the National Gathering of Leaders
Chairperson's Corner - Operating in the Gifts

Editor's Reflection

Somehow, as we come to the end of the first forty years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since the Duquesne Weekend, many of us feel a new wave of grace. There seems to be something coming with the breakers of God's ocean sweeping over us again. We felt it at "Amazing Grace" in Detroit and at "Pour Out Your Spirit Anew" in Secaucus and at local conferences across the nation. We see it in Life Teen, in Franciscan U. of Steubenville's Youth Rallies and in the newly formed Youth Ministry Committee.

In all of Paul's letters to the early Christians, and Peter's as well, the communities are greeted with prayers for grace and peace as they begin walking in the ways of Jesus. Paul speaks of Christian Israelites as a "remnant, chosen by grace." (Rom. 11:5). Don't you sometimes feel that we are a remnant of Christianity in a society that's heading in the wrong direction. Perhaps we are a remnant, chosen by grace. If so, we are chosen not to run away from society but to permeate it; to be part of a new tide that washes and purifies the shore.

But, what is this "grace" anyway? We talk about it a lot but do we really understand what it is? It might help us to look at it as described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. According to paragraph 1996 it is a favor, freely given... to help us respond to God's call to become His children...to participate in the life of God. This reminds us of Mary's call. "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1: 28). We celebrate Mary's response. But isn't it awesome to realize that each of us is also called to some particular purpose in God's plan and the Lord says to us "Hail, favored one" and that He invites us into the very life of God?

Paragraph 1999 speaks of this gift of God's own life

infused by the Holy Spirit into our souls so that we might be healed and sanctified. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, s/he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself." (2Cor 5: 17-18)

Paragraph 2003 says that grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us so that we can be a part of the Lord's work in the world today, to collaborate with Jesus in bringing salvation to others, and in building up the Body of Christ. This paragraph also speaks of "special graces" or "charisms" freely given by God so that we can work for the common good of the Church in service to God and our brothers and sisters in our world around us.

We, in the Renewal, need to ask ourselves some questions. How are we responding to the call to permeate the world with Jesus' message? Are we truly a part of God's work? One criticism we often get about the Charismatic Renewal is that it seems to be drawn into itself, a sect apart from the Church and the world.

This is certainly not the intention of those in leadership. I see most leaders at the international, national, state and local levels striving to emphasize outreach, evangelization, youth, and unity among various cultures as they seek to spread the Gospel. I sense that leaders have a desire to call forth God's people in new ways.

It's a shared frustration, however, that the response is slow from the faithful, even among those that claim to be a part of the Renewal. It's frustrating, too, that some leaders don't get it either. Still, I think leaders in the Renewal should always listen to the Holy Spirit's voice as He directs us in these areas and we need to press on in these efforts. We need to discover

and develop new ways to call God's people forward to action. We need to look at ourselves and see if we are truly listening and responding to the call.

What is the response at the grass roots level, people in prayer groups or who participate in events and love charismatic prayer and worship? Are they hearing the message? Are they committing to evangelization, social justice or Christian unity? Are they working at it? We hear about the "Frozen Chosen" and say that those are the Sunday morning pew folks that are comfortable with the status quo. Let's not be so smug. Let's take a look at ourselves and our prayer groups, bible studies or other small Christian communities. Do we reach out? Do we evangelize? When is the last time your prayer community had a Life in the Spirit Seminar? When was the last time you invited someone to join your community?

A lot of us gather together and attend to each other's needs. We share gifts with each other and offer mutual support; if we preach, we" preach to the choir". It's

our comfort zone. Unfortunately, we don't reach out or seek to build the greater church, nor work for change in the world outside our private "Upper Room". OH, OH! That sounds like the "Frozen Chosen!"

I had a vision at our last CCR Pastoral Team meeting as we prayed about this coming year and our mission in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The Holy Spirit, in the form of an immense dove, hovered over the sea as its waves washed on shore. There were a lot of old things littering the beach. As the Spirit fluttered Its wings in huge, powerful strokes the waters of the sea swelled into great breakers which crashed onto the shore. This tide washed everything from the beach and the sand was left clean and fresh and wet. The Spirit said "The old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

It's Time! It's time to join in this letting go of old things and of discovering new things... It's time to call forth God's people anew!

Peace, Deacon Pat

Gathering of National Leadership Groups for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal - January 2008

It is always a special opportunity when leaders gather to seek the Spirit's direction for the Charismatic Renewal in North America. The ADL steering committee joined the National Service Committee and leaders in the Hispanic, Haitian, Filipino and Korean branches of the Renewal. It was encouraging to see members of the newly formed Joint Youth Conference Team present. (This was the team developed with the combined efforts of the ADL & NSC in response to the discernment of previous National Leadership Gatherings. Its purpose is to seek and empower the youth ministers of our nation, to bring them to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and to use their gifts to serve America's youth).

Msgr. Joe's Challenge

Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia, who serves in leadership in the Haitian and Hispanic Renewal, opened his presentation with a challenge to all of us. He challenged us to dedicate all our efforts in the Charismatic Renewal to Pope Benedict XVI's declaration of a "Year of St. Paul". The themes of St. Paul, he says, coincide with the renewal. He listed eight points:

1. We are a movement of conversion. Look at Paul's conversion in Acts 9. Jesus still wants to knock folks over and set them on a new course.
2. Acts 9 to the end of the book is the story of Paul following the Holy



Liaisons Jane Barz, Sioux Falls SD, Josephine Cachia, Brooklyn NY, Judith Hughes, Norwich, CN enjoy a respite from the chilly north.



Liaisons Fr. Richard Loch, Scranton PA and Fr Richard Digiulio, Buffalo NY preside at Mass

Spirit. Acts is the model for the Renewal. A Year of Paul would be a year of following Jesus in the power of His Holy Spirit.

3. This would be a year of focusing on the Bible.
4. It would be a year of mission and evangelization.
5. Paul is the “theologian of the Spirit for the Renewal”. He speaks often of the charisms (Eph. 6 and 1st Cor. 12 to cite a few).
6. It would be a year of witnessing to Christ in our lives.
7. It would be a year of ecumenism and Christian unity. Paul was first to carry the gospel to the world beyond Judea.
8. It is a year to pass the mission to a new generation as Paul did with Timothy and Titus.

Msgr. Joe said that the challenge comes from Benedict XVI. The response from the CCR should be to “seize the moment.”

Themes and Events to Consider

1. The Jubilee Year of St. Paul will be June 2008- June 2009. It commemorates 2000 years since his birth. Pope Benedict’s call to walk in the footsteps of Paul.
2. The theme for the National Leadership Conference to be held in Nashville, TN Nov 14-16, 2008 is “**A Future of Hope**”. Leaders in the Renewal are encouraged to read and reflect on Crossing the Threshold of Hope, John Paul II and Benedict XVI’s encyclical Saved in Hope.
3. ICCRS encourages all to join in a Worldwide

Pentecost Novena, May 2-11, 2008 with major events on Pentecost weekend (May 10-11).

Their theme is “Novena of the Nations for a New Pentecost”. This will be the first part of a three year journey culminating in a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 2010.

4. It is not too soon to start thinking about the Golden Jubilee of the Charismatic Renewal in the year 2017. NSC is looking at a three year build up to the Jubilee Year with special events and programs.

Youth Initiatives

The ADL-NSC Youth subcommittee has launched the new Joint Youth Committee. This effort grew out of common concerns among the leaders going to the National Leadership Gatherings for the past three years. This is a committee of six who are active in youth ministry. They come from throughout the country. Fr. John Gordon is the chairman. Focus will be on the formation, spiritual development and support of youth ministers. The aim is toward developing regional retreat/conferences for youth ministers. Leading them toward Baptism in the Holy Spirit will be incorporated in the events. An initial retreat will be in St. Paul, MN April 28-30, 2008.



Filipino, Haitian and Hispanic leaders share in leading praise

Liaisons’ Chairperson’s Corner

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Warm and loving thoughts to each of you. Our April conference will be here before we know it and I’ve been excited with the theme since we recognized it last year. The essence was that the Lord’s greatest gift to us (liaisons of the CCR) was that of empowering the laity for their service to the church. Pope Paul commented on the Charismatic Renewal as a gift to the church to build up the body of Christ. How perfectly this gift to us has been set in place through us. We enable and call into order, with authority the charisms of the Holy Spirit within the laity. This topic has not yet been explored by us as far as I remember and offers us a great opportunity to examine and grow in this entrustment given us by God. What a basic, yet essential gift and one we need to value and grow in. Hopefully there will be a lot of time for shared experience and wisdom.

God-willing we’ll be there in large numbers – as the song goes – “Meet me in St. Louie, Louis, meet me at the fair.”

*Love and good Lent,
Arlene Apone*



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“Operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Dear Liaisons -

I just wanted to let you know about a program we co-sponsored. It was presented to our Priests and Deacons by Continuing Education for Priests and Spiritual Renewal Services. Walter Matthews, Director of Chariscenter was our speaker. The program was entitled “Operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit”. We used the “Spiritual Gift Inventory” by Sherry Weddell and each attendee was given the manual so they could further study their gifts. We had 30 priests, 1 Retired Bishop and 7 Deacons attend. At the end of the day we offered to pray over many of them. A good number responded.

The day was very well received. Walter has a real gift for teaching and related very well to all who attended. It helped to bring better understanding about charisms and charismatic renewal in our diocese. Why not try one of these days in your diocese?

You should be receiving more information about this from Chariscenter.

God bless all of you. I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

Judith Hughes, Co-liaison
Norwich, CT Diocese
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ADL Annual Meeting and Symposium “Calling Forth God’s People” April 7-11, 2008

Presenters:

Fr. Tom Forrest, C.S.S.R.
Mr. Jim (Butch) Murphy

Retreat morning:

Facilitator: Butch Murphy

**Music leader: Bill Richart
Pallotine Renewal Center**

15270 Old Halls Ferry Road
Florissant, MO 63034
(Near St. Louis, MO)

For more information Contact
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**Plan now to attend!
National Leaders' Conference
Nashville, November 14-16, 2008**

Sponsored by the National Service Committee
of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the
Association of Diocesan Liaisons