

IGNITE

in us the fire of your love



Volume 22, Number 1

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The Future of the Charismatic Renewal

By Dorothy Garrity Ranaghan

This past summer, Kevin and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Our meeting, falling in love, and marrying, seems like it was yesterday. But even a fleeting glance in the mirror shows that we have indeed aged—the fruit of our lives evident in our six children and twelve grandchildren. Very shortly after we were married, we were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began the wild ride that has been our charismatically renewed life together in Christ. Reflecting upon this, I was led to ponder the fruit, the wrinkles and the future of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at its 40th anniversary.

The fruit of the Catholic pentecostal/charismatic renewal is the stuff of history. It has taken root in more than 100 countries and has touched the lives of over 125 million Catholics around the world. Practically, that means that the Holy Spirit received in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation has come alive in those individuals in conversion, prayer, joy, boldness and the exercise of the charisms once thought to have died out with the end of the apostolic age.

There are some who believe we are witnessing the end of this period of renewal. The purposes of the renewal, however, are not fulfilled. Every baptized Catholic should experience the fullness of life in the Spirit poured out in every complete baptismal celebration. Charismatic awakening is not just for a few, not just for a “movement,” but for everyone. However, in the face of “graying” of the renewal in the United States and much of Europe, it is worth looking at the core of what this new Pentecost among us is all about, and

what should be happening now to insure a future continuation of this outpouring of the Spirit.

1) the experience of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” with the exercise of the charisms, especially those listed in 1 Corinthians 12, defines the charismatic renewal and why it exists. Yet in some places the charisms have all but disappeared. Only when we keep this “entrustment” at the forefront of our movement will we be faithful to what the Lord has done among us. It saddens me to see some charismatics and some prayer groups investing themselves heavily in non-charismatic devotions and spiritualities. There are many movements and spiritualities in the church. They are all good things, but they are not necessarily “our” thing. For example, every Catholic has the gift of Mary and the rosary, but not every Catholic has begun to exercise the charisms. It is our role to foster, teach, lead and bring people into *this* aspect of full life in Christ.



2) As uncomfortable as the fact is for some Catholics charismatics, the truth is that in the origins of the movement at Duquesne and Notre Dame, we are direct descendants of the events at Parham’s Bible School in Topeka, in 1901 and Seymour’s

Blazing a Trail

Do we celebrate, do we shout hallelujah? Should we sing for joy, should we lift our voices in praise? Will we bow down in gratitude, will we worship? Yes, yes, yes to everything that will proclaim the deep feelings we feel and the hope that has been given us by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forty years, a time of outpoured love and anointed giftedness. And we have only just begun.

“It is important that we continue on our course, no matter what stage we have reached” (Phil, 3:16). This is not a time to retire, or to take a leave of absence. What we have experienced in the baptism of the Holy Spirit enabled us to enter into a “Way of Life.” If ever there was a time that the world needs the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, true God and true man, it is in these days, this time.

“Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest!” (John 4:35). It is the time for the evangelization of our nation, our cities, and our families. It is a time to wake from our slumber going forth with zeal to turn the culture of death into a culture of Pentecost. The gifts we have received are to enable us to

1906 Azusa Street Revival. The unity that the Lord prayed for is one of his deepest desires. The Pentecostal/charismatic movement is one of the key means he has provided for attaining that unity. Pope John Paul II wrote in "Ut Unum Sint," that "*Christian unity is not just some sort of "appendix" which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work.*" It is also uniquely part of the purposes of the Lord for the charismatic renewal that we carry the "ecumenical grace" of Pentecost into then new Millennium.

3) In the beginning, prayer meetings were, and in many places continue to be, like classrooms in which we began to learn how to operate with the gifts of the Spirit. In a sense we were "practicing" the gifts on one another. But they are given for more than us. We can't always wait for people to come to prayer meetings or to church for healing masses. We are the ones who have been "sent." We need to conversationally speak the word of the Lord and heal wherever we are, in supermarkets, offices and in our homes. The community to which I belong went through a period in which we experienced a fresh release of the gifts, especially healing. As a result, I have witnessed more healings in the last ten years than in the previous thirty years.. Just a few examples: the Lord healed a friend of ours who was near death from Churg-Strauss syndrome, another from 50 years of stuttering, several from cancer, and even more from allergies. During that period, we personally saw a girl in our school healed of blindness in both eyes. Just this past year I was scheduled for surgery for a hole in the retina of my left eye, but after prayer for healing, no surgery was needed. If healing is not happening among some of us as regularly now as it was in the beginning, maybe we all need—in the words of a Pentecostal hymn_ to "get back under the spout where the glory comes out."

4)It is one of the miracles of the early renewal that people actually listened to and followed young lay

men women, undergraduates and graduate students as leaders and teachers. We "whippersnappers" were found open and willing to serve and so the Lord used us. The Council paved the way for the acceptance of the charisms in our day and empowered the laity to act—and act we did once empowered by the Spirit. Some lay people have chosen service to and within the movement, some within the wider church, and others has taken their new awareness of "being" the church out into the world in prophetic action by serving the poor, tackling some major societal problems, and by working to bring kingdom principles into the marketplace, education, culture and government. We as laity, who form the backbone of this movement, (aging and graying as many of us are,) have great hopes for the future of the charismatic renewal of the church. But to make that hope a reality we need youth. Just recently, a small town in the sate of Washington had a Life in the Spirit Seminar, for 120 people with a dozen teenagers involved. My own community, the People of Praise, has witnessed an unprecedented explosion of participation and leadership from our high school and college age youth. These and other things are signs of hope. But it will require more.

As Kevin and I celebrate our wedding anniversary this year, we rejoice that we can see our future in our grandchildren. In the life of the Spirit, "God has no grandsons" But unlike our old bodies, the Spirit can continually quicken sons and daughters to do his work. The prayer, the longing, the work and the focus of the renewal must be reach this generation. Right now at this anniversary season, we are fondly remembering an amazing past. But we can't dwell there. It is time both as couple and as charismatics to renew our first love and look to the future. "To whoever much is given, of him will much be required: and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked." (Luke 12:12:48).

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or fax (914) 725-5227.

E-Mail:CharismNY@optonline.net

NEWS

NOTES



✦ Please remember in your prayers Bill Busch, a Staten Island leader and member of the New York Service Team for many years. Bill went to the Lord just before Christmas. Bill was instrumental in setting up incorporation for the office and organized the Staten Island prayer groups into a cohesive leaders' team.

✦ Many prayer groups have still not sent in the update forms—if your group's details have not changed since the 2004 edition of the prayer group directory, you can simply call the office and leave that message. Others, please send in the form, especially if the leader or contact person has changed in the last two or three years.

✦ We are sending invitations for the Nov. 10 Anniversary celebration to current and former members of prayer groups. If you have an address for someone who may not be on our lists and should get a flyer, please send the name and address to the office as soon as possible.

accomplish this. "The kingdom of God is to be lived, not just talked about" (1 Cor. 4:20).

"when the Father sends his word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. To be sure it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him."

Jesus did not begin his public ministry until the Holy Spirit descended on him in the Jordan River. The apostles and disciples did not go forth from the Upper Room until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Every follower of Jesus, every Christian needs the power of the Holy Spirit in their life to be witnesses, to bring the truth of the message and the power that is in it.

In the beginning years of the Renewal, there were mistakes made, and lack of full understanding of the awesomeness of the gift that had been given. We were like children excited and rejoicing over every new gift we experienced and every word of Scripture that that coming to life in our hearts as we read the Word. We must not lose this excitement or rejoicing. Now we are more aware of what this gift really means. Now we are able to look back at the wisdom and experience that has blazed a trail through the wilderness, so to speak, and we have been given every "spiritual gift in the heavens," "we who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit who had been promised" (Eph. 1:3, 13). Yes, there is a cause for rejoicing. Let the celebration begin!

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New York Celebrates... 40 Years of Amazing Grace: Remember - Rejoice - Rekindle

Saturday, November 10, 2007

at

St. Helena Church, Bronx

Featured Speakers:

Fr. Tom Forrest

Walter Matthews

Sr. Nancy Kellar

Fr. John Gordon

Fr. Benedict Groeschel

Fr. Steve Norton

Fr. Bill Cosgrove

Mary Beth Greene

Emcees: Fr. Steve Norton and Sr. Pauline Cinquini

Music by Steve Leaden and "The Voice of Praise"

Write or call CRO, 194 Gaylor Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583

914-725-1773—CharismNY@optonline.net

Or 845-215-5501 —encpray@optonline.net

40 Years of Renewal: Pour Out Your Spirit Anew

June 22-24, 2007

2007 National Catholic Charismatic

Renewal Conference

Meadowlands Exposition Center, New Jersey

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Sam Jacobs

Patti Gallagher, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Vinson Synan,

Aggie Neck, Pablo Bayona, and more...

Call 1-800-338-2445 or go online:

www.nsc.chariscenter.org

MINI-CALENDAR

Staten Island Conference, varied events, call 718-987-8175 for all, except where another number is given

...Healing Mass, 3rd Tues., 8 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 40 Poplar Ave., Call Nanie, 948-2049

...Healing Mass, 2nd Tues., 8 p.m., O.L. Star of Sea, 5371 Amboy Rd., Call Rita, 984-4144

...Healing Mass, 3rd Sat., 8 p.m., O.L. of Mt. Carmel/St. Benedicta, 1235 Castleton Ave., Call Victor 494-1860

...Healing Mass, 4th Wed., 8 p.m., Holy Child Church, call Sr. Jean, 718-356-5890

...Weekly Mass - Wednesdays -Lamb of God, Mt. Manresa, 9 P.M. (following 8 P.M. prayer meeting)

S.I. website: <http://siconf.tripod.com>

St. John the Baptist P.G., 210 W. 31 St., Healing Mass, third Tuesday, other events, call 212-213-9150

Manhattan...O.L. of Peace Prayer Community, 237 E. 62 St., NYC, 212-838-3189...call for current events

Hope Healing Ministry, 12:30 P.M., 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon, 914-664-5855

...St. Mary's Prayer Group, 8 pm, Wednesdays

St. Paul the Apostle, 77 Lee Ave., Yonkers, call Sr. Eileen, 914-969-3480

...Charismatic Holy Hour, 1st Tues., Prayer Meeting, 2nd Tues., Healing Mass, 3rd Tues., Prayer Meeting, 4th Tues., Prayer Meeting & Bible Teaching, Fr. James Villa, 5th Tues.

St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer, Scarsdale, 914-723-0533

...Thursdays of prayer, from after parish 9 AM Mass, until 12 PM (or Noon Mass with lunch)

...April 21, Brunch, "Springtime—Season of Hope", 9 AM to 12:30 PM

...May 19, Seminar, "Releasing the Grace of Pentecost", 9 AM—4 PM, Noon Mass-Fr. Steve Norton

Northern Westchester/Putnam Vicariate Cluster - Mary Jane -914-737-4286 for general info*

...Cluster Prayer Meeting, Thursday, April 26, 7:45pm, St. Patrick's, Yorktown Hts.,

...April 12, 8 pm, Healing Mass, St. John the Evangelist, Mahopac, call Eileen, 845-628-5393

...April 30, 8 pm, Healing Mass, Holy Rosary, Hawthorne, Call Anne 914-769-4067

...more Healing Masses, May 10, St. Patrick, June 14, St. John

Ulster Healing Masses, Music at 7 pm, Mass at 7:30 pm, Call 914-626-7477

April 20, St. Joseph Church, Glasco, Fr. Charles Zanotti

...May 18, St. Joseph Church, New Paltz, Fr. Barnabas Keck

...June 1, St. John the Evangelist, Saugerties, Msgr. Williams

..1st Sunday of month, Prayer Meeting, 1:30 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Church, call 845-246-9581

See the "Out & About" column of Catholic New York for more current information on events.

or log onto the NY Charismatic Renewal website: catholiccharismaticny.org

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