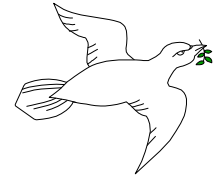


# IGNITE



in us the fire of your love

Volume 17, Number 3

Summer 2002

## **"Give me that "Ole-time" prayer meeting!"**

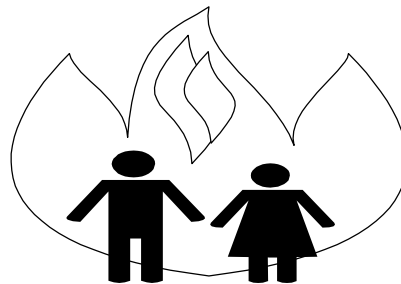
*by Sr. Pauline Cinquini*

This year, the CCR is 35 years old, if such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit can be limited to any point in time. But we do mark the beginning of this remarkable renewal in the Spirit as issuing from an ordinary retreat weekend at Duquesne University (also called the University of the Holy Spirit.)

We have seen many developments over these thirty-five years, but the most characteristic and public expression of this renewal in the Spirit has been the prayer meeting. Gathered in church halls, gyms, and living rooms, millions of Catholics have responded to this move of the Spirit by becoming members of weekly prayer meetings.

My early experience of the prayer meeting took place back in 1970 in the parish hall of the school in which I taught in the East Village. All the elements of a prayer meeting were there: praise, song, Scripture, prophecy, teaching. Then I spent two years at the House of Prayer in Convent Station, New Jersey, continuing to learn about this renewal and prayer meetings, under the tutelage of Fr. Jim Ferry. And all the elements were there as well, in a prayer meeting of 500 or more each Friday night. Our opening songs led us into praise which went on for some time, rising to a crescendo, and dropping off as if

directed by a music leader. Then the leader gave us some instructions for the meeting, encouraging all to be open to a reading, to words of prophecy or spontaneous prayer; special direction was given to the music ministry, to listen attentively to the flow of the prayer, and to be ready to lead an appropriate song at various moments in the prayer.



For the most part, every charismatic prayer meeting looked much the same, just about anywhere you went. In the early 80's, a new development (largely learned from covenant communities) in the form of more extended praise and worship at the beginning of a prayer meeting took shape. Music ministers learned how to support the praise with their instruments. After 15-20 minutes of such extended praise and worship, the groups blended prayer, Scripture, prophecy and song into a wonderful tapestry, as each element flowed in and out of the whole, offering opportunities for confirmations of readings or

## **CEM Gathers Leaders of NY Movements**

On April 13, the Council of Ecclesial Movements (CEM) gathered about a hundred leaders from the ecclesial movements here in the Archdiocese of New York.

The Council seeks to join the gifts of each of the movements for more effective service to the Church.

Our theme for the day was the Holy Father's Letter on the New Millennium, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" or "At the Beginning of the New Millennium."

Three sub-themes were addressed by members of the CEM. Sharry Silvi of Focolare spoke on unity, a particular focus of Focolare. Edward Mulholland of Regnum Christi spoke about community, and Sr. Pauline Cinquini addressed how Charismatic Renewal uses the Gifts of the Spirit for evangelization.

The Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Josu Iriondo, director of the Spanish Charismatic Center.

Plans are proceeding for another event which will gather more members and help us forge connections for service to the

### ***In This Issue...***

Prayer Meetings/CEM.....	P. 1
News Notes.....	p.2
Conferences.....	P.3
Calendar .....	P.4

prophecies, allowing the Spirit to surprise us with a new word or direction. One of the things Fr. Jim taught us was to “appropriate” a reading or prophecy, that is to pray about what we heard. Ex. - if someone had a reading or prophecy about trusting in the Lord, a prayer might follow: “Lord, you have called us to trust in you – we give all our worries into your hands, confident that you care for us in all things.”

As we begin to use gifts in the prayer meeting, we may need some encouragement from the words, readings, etc. from other members of the group. I yielded to my first word of prophecy: “Behold, I am in your midst as One who serves,” after someone had a reading about Jesus as the suffering Servant. While my word was not world-shaking, and I trembled as I delivered it, I would not have said it without the confirmation of that reading to push me.

Something has happened to change the tried and true format of the “classic” prayer meeting. As I visit groups around the Archdiocese (and in other cities, as well), I have observed a shift into what I call the “compartmentalized” prayer meeting. Most of them look like this: the music ministry leads some lively praise songs, (often without the help of a praise leader), for a good length of time; and the praise is good. Then, the leader instructs all to be seated, and several people read from their Bibles (I see fewer and fewer Bibles in people’s hands.) Several readings follow, sometimes a prophetic word is given, (a teaching may be given, but not often) intercessory prayer follows and the meeting concludes with announcements and a closing song.

By God’s grace, people are blessed by the prayer and the community experience. But I believe there is so much more that could be experienced if there was greater freedom for the movement of the Spirit. A measure of structure is important for right order, but in some cases, the structure seems to have overtaken the Spirit. If we “box” the Spirit into sections of praise, reading, prophecy, following each other in a tight sequence, there is little or no room for that nudge of the Spirit that moves us because of the words of a song or reading or spontaneous prayer.

A few final recommendations: music ministries should use lively, easy-to-sing selections for the praise times; choose songs that everyone can sing (you are leaders of song, not performers.) Leaders – either lead the praise yourself, or appoint a music person to do it, so that the praise is uninterrupted while the next song is located. And leaders – encourage the use of Scripture only – lengthy readings from meditation books are fine for personal prayer, but not for a prayer meeting. And all – remember, you are ready to use a gift when you are ready to have it discerned.

Now, if you are saying to yourself, “I have no idea what she is talking about,” then please invite me to your prayer meeting or cluster, and I will happily make it clear. It is healthy to review what we are doing from time to time, clear away what is not helpful, encourage what is, and so renew our prayer meetings as opportunities to evangelize new people and foster this marvelous grace of Pentecost.

*Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!  
Now and Forever!*

IGNITE is published quarterly by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of New York, 194 Gaylor Road, Scarsdale, 10583. It is distributed to those who support the New York Leadership Team through their donations, service and prayer, and is sent to all who request it. Information for this newsletter may be submitted in writing to this address or by phone (914) 725-1773 or fax (914) 725-5227. E-Mail:CharismNY@juno.com Editing, layout and computer work: Sr. Pauline Cinquini, S.C.

## NEWS NOTE



- Our hard-working (they have been meeting monthly) Diocesan Service Team has the website up and running. Log onto: [Catholiccharismaticny.org](http://Catholiccharismaticny.org) to see all the information, articles, links, etc. Staten Island also has a website, see their events on p. 4.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Melissa Eybers, who died last month. Missy was active in the music ministry of the Rockland Cluster for some years. Pray also for Mike, her husband of only two years.
- If the lead article in this issue sparks some interest in having me visit your prayer meeting to share ideas on any of the points I made, or special needs you may have regarding the prayer meeting, I will be happy to come. Be prepared to hear some commendations, but also some recommendations.

Celebrating 20 Years  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

"Come, Follow Me, and I Will Make  
You Fishers of Men

August 2-4, 2002

Speakers: Msgr. Michael Stewart,  
Babsie Bleasdel, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Fr. Bill  
Halbing, Dolores Grier, Fr. Michael Moses

Call 570-344-2214 for info

**Jesus Christ is Lord,  
Come and See!**

**Camden Diocese  
Charismatic Conference**

Oct. 11-13, 2002

New Convention Center,  
Wildwood, New Jersey

Speakers; Bishop Sam Jacobs,  
Sr. Nancy Kellar, Jim Murphy  
call 609-228-1616

## 2002 TRI-DIOCESAN CONFERENCE



**October 26, 2002**

9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Christ the King School, Queens

Theme: *"We Want to See Jesus"* John 12:21

Featured Speaker:

**Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap.**  
Preacher to the Papal Household

Multi-Lingual Sessions, Workshops, Liturgy

Details and registration forms enclosed with this newsletter

***Celebrate! 35 years***

***National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference***

**September 13-15, 2002**

**David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh**

The 35th Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is upon us! The celebrations of our 25th (1992) and 30th (1997) anniversaries were anointed times of great blessing and joy! The Bishops' Committee, Association of Diocesan Liaisons, Ethnic Committees on Charismatic Renewal and others are joining with the National Service Committee to plan a momentous event in 2002 to thank the Lord for 35 years. Call or visit our website to receive your invitation for our 35th Anniversary Conference.

# MINI-CALENDAR

Staten Island Conference, varied events, call 718-987-8175...

...S.I. Picnic, Sat., July 27, 10-4, Mt. Manresa Retreat House, bring own food, chairs.

...Sept. 11, Interfaith Memorial Gathering at S.I. Yankee Stadium, 7:30 P.M.

...Oct. 19, John Michael Talbot concert, St. Roch's Church

...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

...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

House of Peace, 718-547-3230...call to verify times, dates,

...First Saturday Healing Mass, 1:30 Pm, O.L. of Victory Academy Aud., 565 N. Bway, Dobbs Ferry

...Tuesdays at Noon, Healing Services at Sacred Heart Church, Broadway/Ashford Ave., Dobbs Ferry

...Nov. 15-17, Centering Prayer Retreat, St. Andrew's, Walden, NY. Call for details

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

...Saturday Seminar, July 27, 9:30-4 PM, "Emotional Healing for Women," Sr. Nancy Kellar

(Tuesday Evening prayer, Thursdays of Prayer and Saturday Brunches will resume in September)

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

...Cluster Prayer Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 7:45 PM, Fr. Sorgie, speaker.

...Healing Masses, Aug. 22, Oct. 17, Dec. 12, St. John's, Mahopac

...Healing Masses, Sept. 19, Nov. 14, St. James, Carmel

Rockland Cluster meets first Monday of the month, 8:15 p.m. Call 914-623-6503 for location

Ulster Healing Masses, Music at 7 pm, Mass at 7:30 pm, Call for dates/locations 914-626-7477...

\*\*\**TRI-DIOCESAN GENERAL CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 26, 2002*\*\*\*

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

or log onto the new NY Charismatic Renewal website: [catholiccharismaticny.org](http://catholiccharismaticny.org)

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Archdiocese of New York

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