

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Fall 2009

Getting Back into the Normal Routine

Well, our summer break is largely over and we are back into the rhythm of normal life. That rhythm of daily life is often seen as boring, but actually it is very helpful for us. That's because it provides some structure and order to our lives, how we go about things, and what is important to us. In one sense, it's like the skeleton that holds the rest of the body together. We have much diversity in our human bodies yet the basic structure is the same and holds it together. In fact, that structure allows all that variation and diversity because it is a foundation.

In our daily lives, our relationship with the Lord is like that foundation. And we need to have something in the structure of our daily life that makes a place for God. If we don't pray or reflect on scripture, if the only thing we do apart from our prayer group is Sunday Mass, then we shouldn't be surprised if we run out of spiritual energy and struggle with sin. Even ten to fifteen minutes of prayer or reflection a day can make a huge difference. As many of us are painfully aware, making something like that habitual can be a challenge, especially when the weight of the busyness of everyday life burdens us.

So as we go into the fall, and the lazy days of summer recede, let us renew our commitment to the Lord. Let us be pro-active in making Him more and more part of our lives. And let us continue on with the work, the responsibilities, and the mission He has given us. And above all, let us make room for the Lord in our lives, each and every day!

Upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars

One of the concerns we have been hearing from prayer group leaders is about the lack of Life in the Spirit Seminars. The WOCCR team is trying to help and that is the reason for the message on the first page of the previous newsletter.

There is a Life in the Spirit Seminar scheduled for Friday evening October 23 and Saturday October 24 at St Mary's in Albany. For further information contact Pat Jacobson at 541-928-2327.

The prayer group at St Anne's in Gresham are planning a seven week Life in the Spirit Seminar beginning on Monday, October 5th, and going each Monday through November 16th. For further information contact Jack and Ann Ardner at 503-665-4442.

Event Report: Peter Herbeck at Church of the Resurrection!

On the afternoon of Sunday August 16, Catholic evangelist Peter Herbeck spoke at the Church of the Resurrection in Tualatin. The event was sponsored by the local Catholic radio station, KBVM, and hosted by



radio personality Dina Marie Hale. All those on our email list were notified and the event was publicized on the website. Between 160 and 175 people attended. There was a reception afterwards and an opportunity to chat with Peter and to get books signed.

Peter is a coworker with Ralph Martin, an influential figure in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from its growth at Notre Dame in the late 1960s, and author of many books. Together, they work with Renewal Ministries which is dedicated to proclaiming Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit through Catholic renewal and evangelization. Peter has been actively involved in evangelization and Catholic renewal throughout the U.S., Canada,

Africa, and Eastern Europe, and is a co-host on *The Choices We Face* television program, along with Ralph. Also on the team is Sr. Ann Shields who is currently the host of the daily radio program *Food for the Journey*. You can find more information about them from their website at www.renewalministries.net

Peter spoke for about an hour and then took questions. He spoke with passion and conviction about our call as Catholics to continue in mission. He frequently referred to the teaching, direction, and encouragement of Pope John Paul II for the new evangelization. He illustrated his points with numerous stories about how God worked in his life and how God worked in their ministry. He also inspired us with his deeply moving accounts of how the Holy Spirit opened doors and hearts for them to go and minister in Eastern Europe and Asia.

All in all, it was an inspiring and encouraging reminder of how active the Holy Spirit is in the world, and how we are called to continue to be coworkers with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Gospel.

History of Catholic Charismatic Renewal DVD

In the Easter newsletter I referred you to a [You tube](#) video of the renewal that was about ten minutes long. I received a lot of comments and feedback about it. That clip was a promotional for a 30 minute DVD on the history of the renewal. The full edition was the one played at the 40th anniversary national conference for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA in 2007. The DVD was put together by the international office (ICCRS) in Rome.

The better news is that this DVD is available through the National Service Committee office. The cost is \$14 with \$4 for shipping and handling. If you are interested, check out the promotional again at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-QDOcDGDWA

If you want to order a full version of the DVD, the contact details are:

Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee
PO Box 628 Locust Grove, VA 22508

by phone at: 1-800-338-2445 and by email at: chariscenter@nsc-chariscenter.org

The Power of One Person

"Today one can hear it said repeatedly that there is nothing anymore that an individual can do. True, there is not much that can be done anymore to change the whole course of world events. But as long as we live in this world, I believe it is never too late to save ourselves and, perhaps, some other souls for Christ"

Franz Jaegerstaetter, Austrian farmer executed for refusing to fight in Hitler's army.

The Charismatic Renewal and the Christian Life

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa OFM, preacher to the Papal Household

We need to remember how it all began. The Charismatic Renewal was born with a powerful drive to return to the essentials of the Christian life: the Holy Spirit, the lordship of Christ, the word of God, the sacraments, the charisms, prayer, evangelization. This is the secret of its explosive power. It simply accentuates what should be common and “normal” for every baptized person.

The basic work of the Spirit is his sanctifying activity (see 2 Thess. 2:13; 1Pet.1:2) by which he transforms human beings, giving them a new heart, not the heart of a slave but the heart of a child of God’s family. Next comes his charismatic activity, by which he distributes a variety of gifts for the good of the community. This is what he did at Pentecost: he transformed the apostles, making new men of them, then he had them speak in tongues and prophesy, and he gave them all the gifts they would need for their mission.

In the Charismatic Renewal too, we need to respect this hierarchy; personal sanctification must come first, and only then, in second place, the experience of the charisms. The Holy Spirit does not set out merely to clean up the dress of his bride, the church. His first aim is above all to renew her heart. . . . I believe that the words of the letter to the Hebrews are addressed to us, too: “Remember the earlier days . . . be as confident now” (Heb. 10: 32, 35).

There is a perception in some places that the Charismatic Renewal is at a standstill or shrinking, declining in enthusiasm and numbers. It is true, and it is normal in movements of this kind. They are not made to become institutions, but as the late Cardinal Suenens once said, to transmit an impulse, “a current of grace”, and then if necessary to disappear, like an electric charge that is dispersed in a mass of matter.

However, one thing remains the same today as in the early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and that is the power of the Holy Spirit. We see it achieve today, in those who come into contact with it for the first time, exactly the same effects as in the early days. Every time we allow him to act, every time we provide suitable occasions for his coming, where people gather as in the “Upper Room” with expectant faith, he does come down. I have had opportunity to see it again very recently. Every time it is a whole new world that opens up before the person who receives him.

Visible signs of the coming of the spirit are generally the rebirth of courage, hope and joy. Even in the opinion of the public at large, the Charismatic Renewal is seen as a movement of joyful people, who clap or raise their hands, who seem transformed, with smiling, almost ecstatic faces. This is not a wrong perception. Joy is in fact one of the signs or fruits of the Spirit. I hope we will all cultivate the signs – courage, hope, and joy.

Faith in God

"Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God finds he lacks nothing, God alone suffices"

St. Teresa of Avila

The National Service Committee

The National Service Committee is a group of leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal who work together to serve the Lord in renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church. The leaders each serve for terms of office, and one is elected as president.

Chariscenter USA is the headquarters of the National Service Committee. These offices are located in Locust Grove, Virginia, about an hour and a half south of Washington, DC. The work of Chariscenter USA is to serve and support the ministries of the National Service Committee including:

- a. facilitating networking among leaders of Renewal Centers, prayer groups, and national ministries;
- b. providing guidance and information for individuals, prayer groups, Renewal Centers and dioceses looking for connections throughout the country, indeed throughout the world; and
- c. administering the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference and Regional Leaders' Gatherings, and collaborating on ecumenical opportunities.

You can visit their website at www.nsc-chariscenter.org

In recent years the National Service Committee has published a number of resource materials. These are available through the office. They include, books, DVD's, leaflets, and other materials. They can be accessed here www.nsc-chariscenter.org/resources.htm

The office also includes a national prayer group data base, links to a whole variety of other Catholic Charismatic Renewal web sites, an online edition of their quarterly newsletter Pentecost Today, and a listing of events such as conferences, retreats, seminars, and training programs.

So, if you a little time, click on the links and explore!

Testimonies: Dealing with Anger

My personal experience with forgiveness over a hurtful situation in the workplace was an important life lesson. After 35 years of faithful service to my company, guiding a business unit to high productivity and profitability, my new boss told me, "We don't need you anymore." I had been among a select group that founded this business unit and had dedicated much of my life to its success.

You can imagine my reaction. How could this happen to me? At age 55, you don't just walk away and find another well-paying and personally rewarding career. My first response was anger, followed by the kinds of evil thoughts and words that St. Paul describes as "curses". I began to plot how to get even with these people. But God knew me all too well and had a plan of his own.

He began with a clear command for me not to act out of anger. In prayer, he said to me, "Wait. I will tell you when and how to act." He knew full well that if I tried to solve this problem on my own it would distance me from him and only make matters worse.

The wait was longer than I expected. After 3 years of daily prayer, fighting my anger but trusting in God, a solution was suddenly presented to me. Though I was grateful to God for this, I had not yet repented of my unforgiveness. That took another full year.

I can remember the point where I really let go, releasing the anger. I had begun to forgive those who had hurt me. I contacted them and spoke forgiveness from my heart. From that day forward it felt like a very heavy burden had been lifted off my back. I experienced the freedom that comes from forgiving and loving others, even those who hurt me.

Ron Schoengold, Christians in Commerce daily reflection, www.christiansincommerce.org

Mighty Men of God Conference

This photo is of the "Mighty Men of God" conference held near Greytown in South Africa, fairly close to where I was raised. It is an annual event hosted by the potato farmer turned Pentecostal evangelist, Angus Buchan. His story is now a movie entitled *Faith Like Potatoes*. Buchan began the conferences several years ago with a few hundred men attending. The 2009 conference had almost 200,000 men attend. It was held out in the open in the farmer's fields. The attendees lived in tents, used outhouses, and got their food tented soup kitchen style, yet they came in droves. This photo is of the stage area surrounded by thousands and thousands of chairs, and the camping areas around them. The Holy Spirit is still at work throughout the world!

