

SPIRIT AMONG US
CHARISMATIC NEWSLETTER
DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY, WI

April, May, June 2009

Liaison's Message:

The experience of Pentecost that we refer to as "baptism in the Holy Spirit" has transformed my life and yours. This grace of Pentecost is vital for the Church. Second century martyr, Ignatius of Laodicea expressed it well. He states: "Without the Holy Spirit God is distant; Christ is merely a historical figure; The Gospel a dead letter; The Church an organization; authority is domination; mission is propaganda; liturgy is only nostalgia; and the work of Christians is slave labor...But with the Holy Spirit, Christ is risen and present; the Gospel is a living force; The Church is a communion in the life of the Trinity; authority is a service that sets people free; mission is Pentecost; the liturgy is memory and anticipation; and the labor of Christians is divinized."

Souls are at stake including our own. St Paul said, "Woe is me if I don't preach the Gospel." (1Cor 9:16) He exhorts us to avoid complacency: "For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." (2Tim 1, 6-7)

In His Spirit,

Fr Art

HEALING PRAYER

Throughout our lives, there are times when we need healing prayer. There are teams available to meet with individuals to pray with them through a healing journey.

To schedule prayer or for more information, call Roseann (920-434-6057)
or
Joan (920-499-4616)

Life in the Spirit Seminar:

Words can not express the joy I feel almost daily after participating in the Life in the Spirit seminar. At the opening of the first session, I recall saying to myself, I am opening my heart and mind allowing God to take control.

After the first session I felt strong feelings of God's love, caring and support from the participants and team leaders. Within my heart, there came an unexplainable feeling of closeness to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

After each session, these feelings were stronger.

I felt intense power in the witness talks after hearing of others' trials and challenges, how obstacles made them stronger and restored their faith. I came to believe though I cannot see in a physical sense, that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will continue to shine their light on me, giving me the power and will to serve others.

I came to love the people in our small group. The support for each other and being prayed over with their hands on my head was an experience I will never forget. I felt so whole and connected.

I talk almost daily to people about the new joy I feel after the seven-week program. With God's help, I hope I can encourage family, friends and others to join next year's Life in the Spirit seminar. I want them to feel the love, closeness to God, and new joy I am feeling. It was one of the most powerful and enlightening experiences of my life.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the team leaders for their support, work and dedication. I also extend special thanks and appreciation to team leader, Karen Lepp for providing me transportation.

Bob Heiser

From the Office:

As noted in our previous issue, God is working in new and exciting ways at the DCRC. Sarah Neal is available for spiritual direction, prayer teams are trained and ready to minister, we have a website (charismaticrenewal.org) which enables us to make information available in a timely manner, we even have an e-mail address (dcrc@att.net). Now that we're technically prepared, the Service Committee has made the decision to go "paperless" with this newsletter, or as paperless as we can. Our goal is to have as many of you as possible receive this newsletter via

e-mail, beginning with the first issue in 2010.

Of course, we'll need your help. Simply e-mail the office and let us know that you wish to receive this publication via your e-mail address. If you don't have e-mail, or would still prefer a "hardcopy", please let us know in writing, or by phoning the office at 920-405-1960. We are taking this time to glean our mail list, so it is important that we hear from you if you want to continue to receive this newsletter. And please, keep us in prayer as we make this transition.

We could use your help in another way, too. If you have been blessed through our ministry in any way - this newsletter, Life in the Spirit Seminars, area gatherings, retreat days, prayer ministry, etc. - we invite you to keep our coffers filled so that these ministries can continue. We have been so very blessed through the generosity of so many since we opened our office almost 25 years ago! We offer you the opportunity to be a blessing too. All donations are tax deductible, and can be sent to DCRC, 1227 13th Ave, Green Bay, WI 54302.

As Henry Nouwen wrote: "Fund-raising is not a response to crisis. It is a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing your vision, and inviting other people into your vision with the resources that are available to them." So we invite you to re-read the articles from Fr. Art and Bob Heiser and see for yourself the vision in action here in the Green Bay Diocese, and become a part of that exciting vision!

Judy Goolsbey
Office Manager

Chambers Island Retreat:

"I have called you to this place. I want to lavish My love upon you." (words received 6-12-09)

All 41 of us truly felt that love as we spent the weekend focused on the Heart of God. Fr Bill Switchenberg led us in Centering Prayer and challenged us to let go of all we hang on to and place our trust in God alone. The retreat gave us an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, and many had inner healings as a result. This poem reflects the retreat experience:

Into the Beauty

Sparkling sunlight shimmers like diamonds
upon the gentle waves that fall softly along the shore.

His majestic Presence beckons to me....
inviting me to enter into the beauty of the crystal blue lake, the
resplendent morning sky, and the warmth of the sun as it penetrates my
soul.

As I embrace God's creation, His grace, His glory and His everlasting
peace, soothes my weary mind transporting me to a place of perfect
contentment.

For a moment, I forget my feet are planted on the ground. Here my spirit
soars with freedom and un-abandoned joy.

Here, I rest in the loving arms of God Who reaches out to me through His
creation whispering His promise of everlasting love.

I no longer stand alone. Sensing a connection to all that is holy in this
place of perfect peace, I realize now that I am an extension of God's
creation –

From the grass beneath my feet, to the trees that lend their shade, to the
refreshing waters that lay before me, and to the sky that covers my head –
all becomes part of me as I drink in this beauty letting it sink deeply into
my thirsty soul.

I come away refreshed; dancing in the light of my Creator, singing praise
to the Eternal Maker of heaven and earth, for His glory transcends the
ordinary making each day a cause for celebration of the life He gives.

c Tena Klessig
Chambers Island – July 27, 2006

If you couldn't attend the charismatic retreat, there are still other retreat
opportunities on Chambers Island this summer, into September. Phone
the Retreat Office for more information: 920-272-8296

Prayer for Priests:

In support of the “Adopt-a-Priest” program, which is sponsored by the Diocese of Green Bay, we offer the following prayer for priests, taken from the Intercessors of the Lamb flyer:

Let us pray

Father in your plan for our salvation, you provide shepherds for your people. Father, we come to you now, in the name of Jesus, our High Priest and Intercessor, to ask that our shepherds, especially (name) _____ may receive:

S a SERVANT’S heart committed to enthusiastic service of leadership.

H a HUMBLE heart, meek and gentle as the Lamb, to heal the brokenhearted.

E a EUCHARISTIC heart, full of love to worship you in spirit and in truth.

P a PRAYING heart, interceding in the power of the Holy Spirit without ceasing.

H a HEARING heart, obedient to your Word, no matter what the cost.

E an EVANGELISTIC heart on fire with zeal for the salvation of souls.

R a RENEWED heart to give You greater honor And glory in Christ Jesus.

D a DISCIPLE’S heart, following the Lamb wheresoever He goes, even to death on a cross.

Father, we thank you for hearing our prayer and ask that you protect them

from the Evil One and keep them in Your love always.

Amen.

To adopt a priest, contact Helen Scieszka,
PO Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305-3825;
call 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8310;
or email hscieszka@gbdioc.org

Pentecost Celebration:

It is truly good to gather in community! For those who filled the chapel at Monte Alverno, it was a time of praise and sacrament. For the music ministry, it was a time of “stepping out in faith” and trusting God’s perfect will.

Fr. Art’s message was simple, yet challenging: “Know the Father”. We were told to GO, SOW, and KNOW. Know that the Father is the one who sent the Holy Spirit. Sow faith, hope and love wherever you go, for the Lord told us: “Fear not. I will prepare the way. Sow the seeds and trust Me.”

As always, the meal served at Monte Alverno was beyond expectation. The party went on and on and on, with the realization that we need to get together more often!

2009 Leaders’ & Ministries’ Conference:

National Service Committee and the Association of Diocesan Liaisons are convening the 2009 Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference, October 23-25, 2009, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The theme is Equipping for the Mission, and is for all who are in Diocesan or prayer group leadership in the Charismatic Renewal. Also invited are those serving in any ministry (such as music, healing, prophecy, teaching, Life in the Spirit Seminars). There’s also a place for those new to the Charismatic Renewal and life in the Spirit who have a desire to grow in charismatic life.

The Conference will include times of praise and worship; Eucharistic celebrations on Saturday and Sunday; 4 Workshop Tracks: Charisms, Leadership Formation, Outreach, and Strengthening Prayer Groups. There will be a healing service and an empowerment service praying for fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Speakers include: Ralph Martin, David Thorp, Aggie Neck, Mark Nimo, Arlene Apone, Judith Hughes, Fr. Richard Loch, Fr Bob Hogan, BBD, Chuck

Hornsby, Brent Heiser, Bishop Michael Burbridge, Jonny and Leslie Bertucci, and Jane Guenther. Registration forms are available at the Renewal Center (920-405-1960).

Please pray about this and spread the word!

SPIRIT AMONG US is a publication of the Diocesan Service Committee, DCRC, 1227 13th Ave, Green Bay, WI (920-405-1960)

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