

SPIRIT AMONG US
CHARISMATIC NEWSLETTER
DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY, WI

Nov, Dec, Jan 2008

Liaison's Message:

I was one of several from our Diocese who attended the National Charismatic Leaders' Conference in Nashville last month. The theme: A Future Full of Hope was most appropriate for these days of economic uncertainty and political confusion. We who know and trust the power of God have our work cut out for us. The speakers reminded us of the HOPE that is ours - not to hoard and bury, but to share with all around us.

I see HOPE alive in the Life in the Spirit seminars. The enthusiastic sharing of those who have been involved is catching! Knowing that lives are being touched and transformed by the Holy Spirit is exciting. And we are called to be a part of this wonder!

St Bernard Parish in Appleton will be sponsoring a Life in the Spirit Seminar on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, beginning January 5, and running through February 23. For more information or to register please contact Pam Mullins at 920-739-0331

Hope for the future of the renewal in our Diocese is evident in work that is being done to create a website. I don't know much about how to go about doing this, but Robert Radtke does. He hopes to have the site up and running soon.

New faces bring hope to the Renewal Center. Ann and Sherry have been coming in on a regular basis to get books cataloged and help get the filing caught up. They are also helping to get us on line.

And finally, the Hope of this Holy Season! I join with the other members of our Service Committee (Karen Wautlet, Joan Bleser, Jerry Oryall, Ann Radtke, Larry Plaia, Al Bleser, and Mary Ver Haag) in wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a most Blessed New Year!

Judy Goolsbey
Co-Liaison

Life in the Spirit Seminar Follow-up (For any & all who have attended Seminar)

Please, join us as we focus on "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" (Word of Knowledge, Wisdom, Inner Healing)

When: Jan. 13, Feb.10, Mar. 10 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: Bishop Wycislo Room, St Francis Xavier Cathedral

For more information:

Carol Abts (468-8607)

Joan Bleser (499-4616)

Diocesan Charismatic Renewal (920-405-1960)

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)

National Leaders' Conference:

"Crossing the line" is the thread that ran through the 2008 National Leaders' Conference held November 14-16 in Nashville, TN.

Are we ready to step across the line and commit ourselves totally to Jesus Christ? Are we ready to be the prophetic voice, grounded in Hope, taking and living the charisms in the marketplace? In these times of fear and

uncertainty, do we have the courage to move out of our comfort zones and boldly proclaim the Name of Jesus to a world in desperate need of His healing?

These and many other challenging questions were put to those in attendance as we heard national and international renewal leaders share their vision of the Spirit alive in the world today. We've just celebrated 40 years since the birth of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The call now is to let go of things that were only for a season and to be open and empowered for God's mission for us today.

Tom Curran's keynote opening question was, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?" We've been called to a stewardship of passing on to the next generation what we've learned through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. God created the world so that Jesus Christ could be born into it; He created us so that Jesus Christ could be born in us! How are we living that out? Have we crossed the line, or are we just bluffing?

Pope Benedict proclaimed that the Church is ever young, ever alive with the presence of God's Spirit, ever called to conversion. In this time especially, what we have to say is important for the world to hear. Michelle Moran, president of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), stated that we have a responsibility to move in the graces that are present now, and not to presume that they will always be as freely flowing as now. She spoke of Peter's response to Jesus' call: "If You say so Lord, I will."

She reminded us that we are living in a spiritual war zone, calling for deeper prayer and intense fasting.

In a conversation with a decorated military officer, she asked him which was the best regiment. His reply speaks to each one of us: "The best regiment," he declared, "is composed of the people who have been on the battleground, looked the enemy in the eye, and lived to tell the tale." The way we are able to look the enemy in the eye is to be rooted in God's promises, and know who we are as children of the King. We need to share our witness with those who are struggling and losing hope.

The conference was filled with calls to proclaim the Gospel, help others across the gap, and sustain each other on the journey. Jim Murphy's

powerful exhortations were coupled with his unique humor as he decried those who were baptized with embalming fluid, whose hope in their heart hadn't made it to their face. We need to be people of authentic joy, moving in total obedience and freedom that the Church provides, in the graces that are present. "Work as if the tide is coming in" could be the thought we came home with, as a sense of urgency permeated the conference. There were vibrant masses, many excellent workshops, and anointed praise and worship throughout the conference.

CD's and DVD's are available to borrow from the Renewal Office – everyone is encouraged to make use of these resources for visioning and empowerment as we enter this new season of the Spirit!

Ann Radtke
Service Committee

Attention Leaders

Charismatic Leaders' Gathering "Hope for the Renewal"
(and other exciting news)

January 24, 2009

Watch your mail for details or check out our new website:
www.charismaticrenewal.org

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

Last summer, I was asked if I'd be interested in serving on the team for the upcoming Life in the Spirit seminar. I said, "Maybe". Identifying with the feelings that perhaps Moses had, I heard many things in my head like, "Who am I that I should go?", and, "I have all these faults", and, "I just came back to the Catholic Church 18 months ago, aren't there others better suited for this than me?". But after offering it up to God in many ways, praying about it, discussing it with spiritual guidance and humbly considering obedience to God's call, the words, "I will be with you" came. So, I said, "Yes".

On the last night of the seminar, as the team met for the last time, the team leaders asked us for our closing comments. I said, "I love you people. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you better. It has been wonderful to be here with all of you. Thank you very much for inviting me".

I love being with Christian friends, talking about our faith, praying together, laying hands on one another, hearing each other's stories, singing songs of praise, worshiping, celebrating God's presence, building each other up in Christ's love. There is no place that I'd rather be, no setting that I'd pick over this. Why? Because this is what Christian fellowship is all about. By supporting one another, sharing each others' burdens, praying for one another, making new friends in Christ, we develop hearts of love for the battles of life.

The deepest yearning of the human heart is for love. This lifelong quest plays out in unique ways for each of our lives but the goal is the same: to give love and to receive love in God's holy name. As we go forth from the Life in the Spirit seminar, we are strengthened in our resolve to love others into the Christian fellowship that we share. There are many hurting people out there, many non-believers, many of our friends, co-workers and family living secular, non-spiritual lives. Many live in utter hatred. There are atheists. We show the love of Jesus Christ by loving other people where they are and by our loving interactions with people in everyday life. Love is the only hope in this life. Life in the Spirit helps us develop the loving hearts that God wants us to have.

"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another." (1 John 3:11) The New American Bible commentary on this passage sums it up best: "Love, even to the point of self-sacrifice, is the point of all the commandments. For Christians, proof of deliverance is love toward others, after the example of Christ."

Let us go forth from the Life in the Spirit seminar to love and to serve the Lord by loving and serving others as best we can, via the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Roger Stanley

September, 2008

We Remember Imelda Van Vegel

She was secretary for our Service Committee for many years, and a member of Cross and Crown Prayer Group where she played guitar.

May she rest in peace.

Unlock the Power

Feb. 20, 2009 Day of prayer and fasting

The National Service Committee and the other other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting. We are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost.

This will be the eighth year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.

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