

# CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

2719 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3061

(612) 721-2543

E-mail: [jolenecro@usfamily.net](mailto:jolenecro@usfamily.net)

Website: [www.mncro.org](http://www.mncro.org)

Mary Nawrocki, Chairman of the Board

Jolene Carpenter, Administrator

Larry Nawrocki, Editor

September/October 2003

## Mission Statement:



*Our mission is to help people respond to the call to conversion to the lordship of Jesus Christ, to facilitate transformation through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and to assist in the spiritual renewal of people and parishes.*

### **An Interview with Mother Nadine Brown**

*Mother Nadine Brown is the founder of the Intercessors of the Lamb Charismatic Covenant Community in Omaha, Nebraska. She has authored a number of books on contemplative prayer, intercessory prayer and spiritual warfare. She will be directing a charismatic retreat at St. Peter Catholic Church in North St. Paul on Friday and Saturday, November 21-22. Many will remember her as one of the main speakers at the annual regional conference in August 2002.*

CRO: The Intercessors of the Lamb is the name of your community?

MOTHER NADINE: That's right. We're located in Omaha, Nebraska.

CRO: How large is the community?

MOTHER NADINE: We have 43 members; they are men and women, and, of the men, four of them are now priests.

CRO: Former laymen went to the seminary?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, in St. Louis. We have many, many lay members - several thousand - throughout the world. We have quite a few in the Omaha area as well. We call them Companions of the Lamb.

CRO: The 43 that you mention, they are all religious?

MOTHER NADINE: They are religious. The community is a mixed community of brothers and sisters, and, of the brotherhood, four are now

priests. We have one more in the seminary right now.

CRO: Do you have an area where people live communally?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, we do. We have approximately 100 acres right on the outskirts of Omaha, Nebraska - a beautiful, hilly region with a lot of wildlife. Five of our lay families live in this area with us. They all have their own homes, however, but their properties are part of our property. Other lay members are also building out there. We have a family that will be coming in from New York that's building, and we have families coming in from other states. They are buying homes in this area or building on our property. And we have a lot of lay families in Omaha as well that are what we call nonresidential. They're not in residency on or near our property.

CRO: How about other locations in the U.S. or outside the U.S. for that matter?

MOTHER NADINE: Right now Omaha is our only major foundation. We have many invitations right now from bishops to begin new foundations, but currently we only have the one. What we have in other parts of the United States and in other countries are what we call the Companions of the Lamb... many, many prayer groups that are intercessors.

CRO: You're referring not only to the U.S., but the Companions worldwide?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, Omaha is becoming the world headquarters, but we are discerning about starting new foundations. We are going to

Uganda in November to respond to a bishop's invitation and to see if we want to start a foundation there.

CRO: That sounds exciting.

MOTHER NADINE: Expansion in the United States is also a strong possibility. But we don't want to establish a mission too soon, because we have a large center in Omaha. We have eight houses on land in Omaha, so we have a lot of retreatants that are here every day. There's a lot of ministry that's done from our center which we call Bellwether.

CRO: Is your time spent more in speaking around the country and around the world, or offering retreats at your location in Omaha?

MOTHER NADINE: Well, I would say both. We have approximately 11 very well-trained retreat directors here at Bellwether and so we have retreatants here all the time. Private one-on-one retreats are the norm. We're trained in the Ignatian spiritual exercises; there are many Jesuits. We have a two-year waiting list right now for people waiting for retreats here. So we're in the process now of coming up with some building plans and meeting with the planning board. Hopefully by spring, we'll have another building up that can house more retreatants. So there's a lot of retreat work that goes on here. We also have very well-trained spiritual directors. We do a lot of spiritual direction by phone, e-mail, one on one, but spiritual directors seem to be sparse right now, so we do a lot of spiritual direction long distance as well. I do a lot of traveling now on missions and conferences. Because we have four priests, some of them are doing quite a bit of the mission work as well.

CRO: I know you were up here in August of '02 when we had our annual conference.

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, up in the Twin Cities.

CRO: Had you been here very much before that?

MOTHER NADINE: No, I hadn't. Being there was wonderful. It was the first time I had really been back since I left the convent there. So it was really beautiful. It brought back some wonderful memories for me.

CRO: Is The Intercessors of the Lamb a covenant community?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes. There are different levels with many of our companions. Some of them are more comparable to the Legion of Mary. There are your certain prayers they might say each day. There are different levels of commitment with our lay participants. But we do have some of our lay people who are more in the covenant level of commitment. And, of course, all of us in the religious dimension are definitely covenant.

CRO: When did the community start?

MOTHER NADINE: I was called out of the cloister in 1976. It took a while to get started. You have to show the church that you're a viable community for at least five years before they'll even let you begin to submit a rule, and so it takes a while. So the community actually started to form seriously around the early '80s. It was then that a businessman bought us our property. It was then that the community really started coming together because we had a place. And we received our first church permission, our first church status you might say, as a private association of the faithful in 1992. In 1998 we received another level of church recognition as a public association of the faithful.

CRO: How did you happen to go to Omaha from St. Paul?

MOTHER NADINE: Omaha is my home. And even though I'm a convert, an adult convert, my family is not Catholic, the Lord wanted me to return to Omaha because of my being known here. At that particular time, I was known by the archbishop, and known at the chancery level as well. So it was relatively easy to get the permissions. But I came to Omaha mainly because that's where the Lord indicated I should come.

CRO: What else would you like people to know about the Intercessors of the Lamb?

MOTHER NADINE: It's a very trinitarian community. We stress a lot of the common vocation of baptism, because this is what we hold in common with everyone in the church. I think something rather unique about the community is that it is a mixed community, and

when we started there just were not any mixed communities in the United States at that time.

CRO: Mixed meaning?

MOTHER NADINE: Ecumenical.

CRO: Is it not then an exclusively Catholic community?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, it is. It's exclusively Catholic. By ecumenical, I mean we minister a lot to non-Catholics, we're spiritual directors of non-Catholics, but the community itself is Catholic. We have chapels in all of our houses and, of course, daily mass. We're very Eucharistic; we're very Marian; we're all consecrated to our Lady. It's a charismatic community as well. We're very church orientated.

CRO: Can you share about your conversion to Catholicism?

MOTHER NADINE: Oh, yes. My conversion came when I was an airline stewardess; I was a flight attendant. And it came when I began to realize the majesty of flying, looking down upon the earth. And I began to realize I was missing something, that there was more. That was the beginning. I used to sail a lot on Lake Michigan, and the feeling of infinity came, that you couldn't see the other shore. And again I thought there's more, that I was missing something. And so when I left the airlines and came back to Omaha, I made a list of different churches through which I was going to look for God in a deeper way. And so I did. I met with ministers and asked questions, and I checked off each church. The last church on my list, of course, was the Catholic Church. And when I knocked on the door of this Catholic rectory one day, this priest and I started talking. There was something that happened when he took me to the door, and he put his hand on my shoulder and he said, "Everything is going to be all right." It was like a sacramental for me. I could feel God's love going from his hand on my shoulder right through me. And I said, "Could I come back?" And he said, "Certainly." So I went back and met with him two nights a week and six weeks later I was baptized.

CRO: It seems like there's always one person who has influenced us most. Would you consider that priest that person?

MOTHER NADINE: Yes, I really would. And it was right at that time in my life. During the prior year, my father had remarried after my mother had died. My grandmother, who lived with us, then died. My brother got married. So my whole family was gone almost within a year, one through death, the others through marriages. I think the priest somehow related right then to a vulnerability within me... that I needed family. And baptism for me was just a wonderful family experience.

CRO: How about your call to vocation?

MOTHER NADINE: It started coming through within a year, almost right away. The Lord led me to another priest who became my spiritual director. He led me into the Legion of Mary. I became very active in the Legion of Mary. And it was through pounding the streets and knocking on doors and trying to get people back to the sacraments that I asked the Lord one day, "There's got to be another way. This is just one city. What about all the other cities? What about the world? How do we reach souls?" And he said, "Through prayer." And so that was the beginning of my search for a life of prayer. And prayer led me to the Sisters of the Cross, the contemplative branch of the Good Shepherd Sisters.

CRO: It always amazes me how people are called in such varied ways.

MOTHER NADINE: It's very personal. Each one has his or her own story. And it's a beautiful, beautiful experience. It changes one's entire life. I have never been the same since. It's so wonderful.

CRO: Mother, how would you define contemplative prayer?

MOTHER NADINE: I define it, first of all, as experiencing God. It's an experience of God, and it's more listening than talking. It's not that we don't talk to God, but it's more receiving what he wants to show us or say to us or touch us in any way. It's more of a child-type of prayer where God initiates and we receive. We teach people how to dialogue with God. But it's not a

monologue where we're doing all the petitions or all the talking. We see contemplation as more listening.

CRO: Is contemplative prayer sort of the opposite of intercessory prayer?

MOTHER NADINE: We would see it not so much as the opposite, although in one way you may say it is, but more preceding intercession. Intercession really comes out of contemplation, because, in contemplative prayer, we pick up on what God wants. We learn how to pray for different situations. Contemplative prayer is more a desert type of spirituality. There's a lot of silence and solitude and listening. And out of that then comes intercession. The contemplative experience directs the intercession. It empowers it, because we know what God wants. It's not so much if it be God's will. We begin to understand what He wants. He gave us a scripture, Amos 3:7. And it says, "God never does anything without first revealing it to His servants." And I began to realize that God wants us to know what He wants to do. We begin all of our prayer like the apostles did, "Lord, teach us how to pray, how to pray for this marriage, how to pray for the government, how to pray for Iraq." "You know; teach us how to pray." So out of that contemplation, that listening, we simply intercede according to what we hear.

CRO: How about charismatic forms of prayer, how do they fit in with contemplative prayer?

MOTHER NADINE: Well, they fit in perfectly because we really feel the charismatic gifts come out of the seven Isaiah gifts of confirmation. And so we use these gifts all the time... the charismatic gifts of word of knowledge, or a deep insight of faith when we just know God is going to heal somebody. The charismatic gifts definitely enhance intercessory gifts.

Intercession itself is a charismatic gift. I received that gift myself after the baptism in the spirit in the cloister. And so we pray that people will receive the gift of intercession, because it is charismatic. It's definitely a charismatic gift of the spirit.

CRO: What else would you like to tell the readers?

MOTHER NADINE: The main thing about our whole charism is that it's Eucharistic, it's Marian, it's charismatic, it's contemplative; it's multi-dimensional: spirituality contemplative and spiritually intercessory, and conscious of spiritual warfare. We have found, as we begin to pray more effectively being advised and informed by God out of contemplation, we started entering more into Satan's camp to snatch souls and disrupt his plans. So we are in all three dimensions of spirituality. That's why Ephesians 6, dealing with the armor of God, is very important to our charism. And that was the original rule of the Sisters of the Cross when I entered. So it's really bringing that whole spirituality back into the church. And it flows out of our baptismal gift of being priest, prophet and king. We feel that the prophetic gift that we all received at baptism is a gift of listening. That's a contemplative gift. The priestly gift is a mediation gift. It's standing in the gap trying to unite man and God, reconciling, as Paul discusses, and as Jesus did. So this is a charism in which the event we celebrate is Calvary. That's where the power and wisdom is. And then, of course, the kingly dimension of our baptism puts us in an authority position of taking command over evil spirits. An important aspect is the trinitarian spirituality that flows out of the trinitarian dimension of our baptism which we all have in common. The whole idea of contemplation is to bring the church back into that deep union with God, devoted to prayer, devoted to the relationship, and then out of that flows all of the ministries. All the ministries of the church will be so much more effective once we can bring the church back to contemplation.

## Announcements

➤ On August 29<sup>th</sup> we received the sad news that Brother Michael Gaworski, founder of Pro-Life Action Ministries, had died. Michael was a national leader in the pro-life movement in the early 1980's and went on to start the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, a Catholic religious

community serving the poor and those in need of Christ's love. For the past 12 ½ years, Michael has been cared for by his Brothers in community and his family after suffering serious brain damage just prior to Good Friday, 1993. Michael was 45. He was a man of great holiness and vision, a devoted follower of Jesus, an eloquent and prophetic spokesman on behalf of human life and a dear friend.

### ➤ **Oh, What a Conference!**

Since the August conference, we have received reports of physical healings, relationships that have been restored, ministries ignited, people who have returned to the Church, and gaining of a new understanding and openness to the role of Mary in lives. Praise the Lord!

Following are some of the comments received:

“I have not been involved in the Charismatic Movement for very long—it was at the Conference at Totino-Grace in 2000 where I gave myself to the Holy Spirit and dedicated my life to Jesus. Since then, I have had a hunger that is unceasing...a burning that only grows brighter. Last weekend left me in awe. We were drawn into His presence and He was loving us, forgiving us and healing us. I have been changed, I am not the same person that walked in on Friday night.”

“I just can't put into words the joy that filled me. There is nothing like the feeling of being truly free and open to our Lord. I know that barriers had been removed...barriers that I had erected to keep from getting hurt. But these barriers had hardened my heart. I have been set free! Set free from fears and chains that had been holding me back. What a blessing! I feel a renewed boldness within me.”

“Truly a mountaintop experience for my daughter and me. The loving touch of Jesus is so intimate. The speakers were marvelous! The conference was out of this world!”

➤ **Charismatic Retreat with Mother Nadine Brown:** St. Peter Prayer Group in North St. Paul is once again hosting its annual retreat to be held November 21-22. This year's featured speaker is

Mother Nadine Brown, founder and director of the Intercessors of the Lamb in Omaha. She has written many books on contemplative prayer, intercessory prayer, and spiritual warfare. The theme of this year's retreat is “Intercession for the World Today.” There is no charge to attend, but a freewill offering will be taken. Pre-registration required. For more information and to register, call (651) 777-4406.

### **Jesus Heals Ministry**

By Bob Schoenecker

The Jesus Heals Ministry is a daytime ministry. Half-hour appointments are scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-4:00. The prayer teams start the day by going to Mass and one hour of Eucharistic adoration.

In June, 1992 Virginia Yarusso and a few others started praying with people at the Franciscan Sisters Regional Center located at 1388 Prior Avenue in St. Paul. In 1995 Bishop Welsh said Mass for the group and after Mass prayed over each member. At that time, the name “Jesus Heals Ministry” was established so all the glory is given to Jesus Christ.

The main mission is to lead each person closer to Jesus Christ. To help them, they are encouraged to have a personal prayer time each day and to do spiritual warfare. If they are Catholic, they are encouraged to avail themselves of the sacraments of the Church often, especially Confession.

Presently there are 15 people who volunteer one day each week and some that volunteer every other week. Teams of two or three pray and ask the Holy Spirit for Words of Knowledge and Wisdom for each person. Since healing is a process, each person is invited to return for prayer as many times as they feel necessary to be healed. God's healing has been witnessed in powerful ways.

If anyone feels called to praying for healing at a special event, or feels God is calling them to a healing ministry, please call Bob at (952) 927-8039.

<b>Upcoming Events</b>
----------------------------

**Healing Masses**

September 23 – Tuesday HEALING MASS WITH FR. FARICY – St. Bonaventure Church, Bloomington, 7:30 p.m. – Contact: Jolene at (612) 721-2543 for directions.

September 26 – Friday - HEALING MASS WITH FR. FARICY – St. Mark’s Church, St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. Contact: Kathleen at (651) 645-7106 for directions.

October 7 – Tuesday – St. Peter’s, North St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O’Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

October 20 – Monday – St. Therese Church, St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. in the lower chapel (below church) – Contact: Sister Mary Anne (651) 690-1501.

November 4 – Tuesday – St. Peter’s, North St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O’Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

November 13 – Thursday – Holy Name of Jesus, Wayzata – Rosary 7:00; Mass 7:30 p.m. – Contact: Therese Walker (763) 553-1343 for more information and directions.

**Other Events**

September 27 – DAY OF RENEWAL WITH FR. FARICY – Saturday 1-5 p.m. – St. Raphael’s Church (Marian Hall) Crystal, MN – No charge to attend, but freewill offering will be taken. Contact: Jim at (952) 351-5835 or (763) 544-9990 for directions.

November 21-22 – CHARISMATIC RETREAT WITH MOTHER NADINE BROWN – “*Intercession for the World Today*” – sponsored by St. Peter’s Prayer Group, North St. Paul. No charge to attend, but freewill offering will be taken. Call to register: (651) 777-4406.

**Life in the Spirit Seminars**

Starts: September 25 (7 weeks) St. Raphael’s Church (Marian Hall) – 7301 Bass Lake Road, Crystal – Thursday evenings 7:00-9:00 pm. – to register, contact Pat (763) 544-9416.

September 25-27 (2 evenings, one day) St. Peter’s Church – 1250 South Shore Drive, Forest Lake – to register, contact Ben or Yvonne (651) 426-3013. Thursday, September 25 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Friday, September 26 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, September 27 - 8:30-6:00 p.m. (*Saturday beginning with coffee at 8:30 and including an opportunity for reconciliation and attendance at Mass.*)