

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

2719 E. 42nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3061

(612) 721-2543

E-mail: jolencarpenter@iuno.com

Mary Nawrocki, Chairman of the Board

Jolene Carpenter, Administrator

Larry Nawrocki, Editor

January 2002



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.

May the Lord of peace himself give you
peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you. *II Thessalonians 3:16*

Peace

by Larry Nawrocki

I am somewhat of a history buff, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is an event that has always intrigued me. I can vividly remember the midshipman cruise in the summer of 1965 that took me to Hawaii. Entering the harbor at about 8:00 a.m. took on an almost surreal sensation. I had read a book entitled Day of Infamy on the transit from San Francisco to Honolulu. That book revealed many of the personal stories of people who had been at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. As we entered the channel almost twenty-four years later, I could almost see the Japanese fighters and bombers making their runs on the U.S. Navy ships, and I imagined the consequences which played out in the personal stories I had read. That historical event, which precipitated the entry of the United States into World War II, was a defining moment in the lives of a generation, and the phrase "December 7, 1941—a day that will live in infamy" came to be the watchword of that generation.

I was preparing to go to work on the morning of September 11, and the day promised to be as routine as any other. At about 8:00 a.m., I turned on the television to see what was going on in the world, and the networks were already showing live images of the first World Trade Center tower burning and reporting that a plane had apparently accidentally crashed into

the tower. It was only a few minutes thereafter that I watched, live and in color, the second plane crash into the other tower. It immediately became apparent that there was no accident involved. December 7, 1941 had been superseded by September 11, 2001 as *the* date synonymous with national rage and mourning.

The response of our nation to the terrorist attacks has been interesting. Patriotism seems to be flourishing. Virtually everyone has an American flag displayed, and there is a sense of drawing together. Sporting events are a forum in which patriotism is particularly apparent; we now sing God Bless America during the seventh inning stretch of World Series baseball games rather than Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and almost everyone in the stadiums dons a combination of red, white and blue.

The response has been evident in some more consequential ways. I have seen more than one news spot focusing upon a national reaction wherein people are reevaluating what is important to them. Many workaholics are reconsidering commitment to the workplace in favor of more time with spouse and children. People have come to a realization that there is an appropriate order of priorities, and, while work is important, there is a developing sense of family.

One of the most significant changes in our national psyche appears to be our attitude toward God. While, prior to the events of September 11, God was "unmentionable", He

has become a rediscovered old friend. People no longer seem shy to recognize and acknowledge the existence of a divine being and to ascribe to that being at least some modicum of power to act in the universe.

Maybe the most dramatic manifestation of a recognition of God is evident in attendance at Sabbath services. I attend 10:00 a.m. mass with my family, and, prior to the attacks, there were large and numerous pockets of emptiness throughout the church. On Sunday September 16, the church was so full that I almost didn't get a seat.

The attacks of September 11 impacted me personally. I became very absorbed by the events as they unfolded on my television screen. Fortunately or unfortunately, it was a day on which it was not essential that I be at the office, and I remained planted in front of the tube till the early evening. As the day unfolded, I rode the proverbial "emotional roller coaster". My first response was, of course, disbelief. We've all seen many movies portraying disasters, and to some extent we've probably all become callous to airplanes crashing into buildings (at least the Hollywood staged variety).

At some point, my incredulity gave way to fear. I think this transition started to occur when the reports began to come in about the plane that crashed into the Pentagon and the one that went down in Pennsylvania. It was about then that I started to wonder where things would end.

As the day wore on, I became overcome by sadness. The immensity of the loss of human life started to sink in some time only in the late morning or early afternoon; for some reason, I had not immediately made the mental leap from buildings imploding to people dying.

At Pearl Harbor, our country incurred about 3,700 casualties. As I watched the destruction, I envisioned at least three times that number killed, not to mention those seriously injured. And, as I watched and started to comprehend the enormity of the situation, I became stupefied by the inhumanity that man inflicts upon man.

Probably the last emotion that washed over me was anger. And commensurate with my rising anger was a desire for revenge. My father was in the Army during World War II, I served in the Navy during the Vietnam era, and my brother is currently in the military. I have

tried to instill in my children a sense of patriotism and a belief that we need to give back where we have been given.

This country has basically known nothing but peace during our lifetimes, and the events of the day had jeopardized that blessing and created a situation in which our military would be called to stand in harm's way. Even beyond that, however, the terrorists had committed criminal acts which had intentionally been brought to bear upon innocent civilians—men, women and children. There was no condoning such conduct.

Even as my anger flared, however, I knew that God wanted me to be righteous in my thoughts and actions. I resolved, therefore, to maintain an attitude of Christian charity...so I tried. And the more I tried, the more and more I got caught up in rage. Images of the towers crashing down pervaded my consciousness. I became aware very quickly that I had little control over my attitude toward what had occurred on that fateful day.

September 11 was a Tuesday, and our charismatic prayer group meets weekly on Tuesday evening. There was a different feeling among the people attending our prayer meeting that night. Certainly the events of the day were on everyone's minds, and there was almost a sense that people wanted more to talk and share their feelings than to pray. Prayer was why we were there, however, and pray we did. Some prayed for the victims of the terrorism; some prayed for the victims' families. Most prayer seemed to be for a change of our own hearts, however, and, while it may have been selfish on my part, that was the focus of my conversation with God. I didn't want the attitude I was experiencing to eat me up inside.

I believe that praying in tongues is *God prayer* — God, through the Holy Spirit, putting into "angelic" words what we can't articulate because of either lack of a proper disposition of heart or our inability to know what to ask for. I prayed in tongues on the evening of September 11, and, as I was praying, a clarity of mind came over me. God wanted me to pray a simple prayer in plain English: "Lord, I am totally incapable of creating in myself the righteousness you want for me. If I'm to be changed, it has to fully be your doing." The prayer was not one wherein I sought God's help to enable me to adopt a more loving attitude. Rather, it was a prayer wherein I asked God to

accomplish in me what I seemed to be without power to do myself.

As I reflect back over the weeks since I prayed that prayer, I cannot recall precisely how immediately God answered me. It might have been instantaneous; it might have been over a period of minutes; I don't know. What I do know, however, is that, by the time we were into fellowship less than an hour later, a great weight had been lifted off me. Confusion was gone; fear was gone; and anger and hatred were gone. God had filled the space they had occupied with a peace and a certainty of His omnipotence. Nor has God's peace deserted me since. It has abided within me throughout the events that have occurred over these past few months.

I have learned a new way to pray. While it may not be for all circumstances, it has held me in good stead during these times of crisis that we have been facing. Have I abdicated responsibility for my personal involvement in my conduct? I would answer with an emphatic **NO**. Now, however, I give credit where credit is due. God is love, and God loves through me. Through God's having acted sovereignly in my life regarding this one thing, I now more clearly see and appreciate His power, His awareness of where my foot trods, and His willingness to exercise His power to guide my path.

A song has been recurring in my memory lately.

*Surely it is God who saves me
I will trust in Him and not be afraid
For the Lord is my stronghold and my
sure defense
And he has become my savior.*

When I have sung the song in the past, I have focused on the word *trust*. I have viewed trust as one more attitude we should have toward God along with love, obey, worship, etc. Since my prayer on the evening of September 11, I focus on *Him*. With new certitude, I know *Him* to be the God of the universe, the all-powerful God who cast the horse and rider of the pharaoh into the sea, the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit who have every hair on my head counted. And with that knowledge, I will be at peace.

CCC

2302 By recalling the commandment, "You shall not kill," our Lord asked for peace of heart and denounced murderous anger and hatred as immoral.

Anger is a desire for revenge. "To desire vengeance in order to do evil to someone who should be punished is illicit," but it is praiseworthy to impose restitution "to correct vices and maintain justice." If anger reaches the point of a deliberate desire to kill or seriously wound a neighbor, it is gravely against charity; it is a mortal sin. The Lord says, "Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment."

2303 Deliberate *hatred* is contrary to charity. Hatred of the neighbor is a sin when one deliberately wishes him evil. Hatred of the neighbor is a grave sin when one deliberately desires him grave harm. "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

2304 Respect for and development of human life require *peace*. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is "the tranquility of order." Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity.

2305 Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the *peace of Christ*, the messianic "Prince of Peace." By the blood of his Cross, "in his own person he killed the hostility," he reconciled men with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God. "He is our peace." He has declared: "Blessed are the peacemakers.

2306 Those who renounce violence and bloodshed and, in order to safeguard human rights, make use of those means of defense available to the weakest, bear witness to evangelical charity, provided they do so without harming the rights and obligations of other men and societies. They bear legitimate witness to

the gravity of the physical and moral risks of recourse to violence, with all its destruction and death.

Upcoming Events

Healing Masses

January 1 - Tuesday - **St. Peter's**, North St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O'Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

January 10 - Thursday - **Holy Name of Jesus Church**, Wayzata - Rosary at 7:10 p.m., Mass at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Teresa Walker at (763) 553-1343 for more information.

January 21 - Monday B **St. Therese Church**, St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. in the lower chapel (below the Church). Contact: Sr. Mary Anne (651) 690-1501.

February 5 - Tuesday - **St. Peter's**, North St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O'Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

Life in the Spirit Seminars

January 5 - Saturday - **St. Therese Church**, St. Paul - in the lower chapel (below the Church). Contact: Sr. Mary Anne (651) 690-1501.

Starts February 17 - **Spanish** -- Sunday evenings during Lent - **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**, St. Paul -- Call CCRO for exact times and registration information.

Starts February 20 - Wednesday evenings during Lent - **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**, St. Paul. Call CCRO for exact times and registration information.

Other Events

January 5-6 - **Fr. Dimitri Sala, OFM** B Weekend of ministry training for those earnestly interested in evangelizing youth B Saturday: "*Casting a Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry*" - Sunday: "*Need for Discipling*" - Call CCRO for information and to register.

January 12 / February 9 (2nd Saturday of each month) - **Intercessory Prayer Gathering** - St. Raphael's Church (in conference room) - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. For more information, call Pat or Joan Vogel (763) 544-9416.