

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

2719 E. 42nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3094

(612) 721-2543

E-mail: jolenecarpenter@juno.com

Pete Fastner, Chairman of the Board

Jolene Carpenter, Administrator

Larry Nawrocki, Editor

July 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.

"Holy and Empowered: God's Vision for You"

by Colin LaVergne

Are you aware of God working in your life? Sometimes, we go through periods where it seems like not much is happening. Sometimes, the solution is to open the eyes of our faith. We believe that God is working in you and wants to do even more! This year's regional Catholic Charismatic Conference is intended to provide you with "new eyes" to see God's vision for your life. God wants to work IN you and THROUGH you.

Mother Nadine Brown from the *Intercessors of the Lamb* in Omaha will be one of our two featured speakers and will bring inspiration and insight from her many years of ministering in the arena of intercessory prayer. **Sr. Francis Clare**, from Milwaukee, who is much beloved as a speaker and retreat leader, will equip us with a new zeal and purpose as she shares from her heart. Bishop Pates from this Archdiocese will preside at the closing Mass on Saturday night.

In addition to these fine speakers, we have lined up over 25 speakers who will speak to us in various workshops. This is more speakers than we have ever had at a regional conference! Saturday morning there will be over 15 workshops to choose from that will focus on various ways that the Holy Spirit wants to work THROUGH US. We have people sharing about

how they have been led to minister, witness, serve in everything from working with the poor, to pro-life work, evangelizing co-workers, reaching out to youth, prisoners, AIDS victims, healing ministry, spiritual gifts, etc. On Saturday afternoon, there will be another 15 or more workshops on ways the Holy Spirit wants to work IN us. Many of the spiritual disciplines such as fasting, deeper prayer, spiritual direction, etc. will be covered as well as sacraments like the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Marriage, Mary, God's Love, constant praise, suffering will all be presented as ways the Lord uses to transform us into His image and likeness.

These workshops will not be dry, boring presentations of some great theories. Each workshop speaker will be sharing stories of how all these areas have been evidenced in their own lives and in the lives of others they know. Each workshop should inspire you to believe that God wants to work in your life in deeper and more powerful ways.

The conference will be August 23 and 24th, 2002 at St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church in Bloomington. A full brochure and registration materials will be mailed out in the next few weeks. **SAVE THAT WEEKEND FOR A TIME OF TRANSFORMATION AND RENEWAL!**

Announcements

Meet Board Member -
Father Jim Livingston

We are delighted to have Fr. Jim serve on our board. Fr. Jim grew up in St. Paul and was ordained in 1990. He served at Epiphany Church in Coon Rapids, Nativity of Our Lord in St. Paul and is currently serving as pastor of both St. Boniface Church in St. Bonifacius and St. Mary of Czestochowa in Delano. He also serves as spiritual director for a local Carmelite community.

Fr. Jim first became involved in Catholic Charismatic Renewal while he was in the seminary when he attended a retreat for priests given by Fr. DeGrandis. It was there that the love of God ministered to him in a very personal and powerful way, which has affected his personal and ministerial life and his "life has never been the same since." He believes that the charisms of the Holy Spirit are meant to help priests be the best and holiest shepherds they can be, meeting the needs of God's family from counseling to the confessional. His warm personality, his great sense of humor, and his love of God and the Church are gifts he shares with all who know him.

Your help is still needed

Thanks to those who have responded to our plea for financial assistance. The need, however, continues. The donations we have received to date have helped pay all the current bills, but we have no cushion to rely on as we go forward into the summer. We are getting close to the conference and have several other events planned in the fall. We need your continued support.

People of the Bread - People of the Wine

by Larry Nawrocki

As I am writing this article, it is what formerly was known as Corpus Christi Sunday. This is the Latin name for what is today known as the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The origins of the feast date back to the Middle Ages when there was a progressive development of worship and devotion to the Eucharist. It came to recall the sacrament, instituted on Holy Thursday, when sorrow over the Passion, the prime thought during Holy Week, hinders a proper celebration of Eucharist.¹

It is interesting that Jesus chose bread and wine as the components of the Paschal meal which He would change to His body and blood. One might think that they are not the most obvious choice, that the Paschal lamb itself would be a better representation of the sacrifice of Jesus. In the Bible, however, bread does have special significance. It was the primary food of ancient peoples. More than that, it represented sustenance of life in the world.

The significance of bread as a sustainer of life underlies the metaphorical uses of bread in the Scriptures.² This is illustrated throughout the gospels. For example, in Matthew Chapter 4, Jesus, after having fasted for forty days and forty nights, was hungry and was tempted by the devil to change the stones of the Judean desert to bread so that He could be sustained.

Again, in Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus highlights the importance of bread to the sustaining of life by contrasting that importance with the hazard of presenting a child with a stone to eat. Probably the most significant reference in the gospels to the essentiality of "bread" to life (in this case spiritual life) is in John Chapter 6. Jesus tells his disciples, "...the

bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

I see an analogy here to the solidly anchored, faith-based component of our spirituality. There are times in our lives when we experience dryness, when we feel like we're running on empty. It is at these times when we must draw upon our faith, our sustenance of life, to carry us through.

John Chapter 6 also relates the response of many of Jesus' disciples to the claim that He was the "bread of life". Many found His words "impossible to accept." Other translations render this characterization of the disciples' attitude as "intolerable." Jesus said to the twelve, his closest disciples, "Will you also go away?" Peter's response was the proper one and reflects what our response should be during difficult times: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..." When the clarity of the vision becomes fuzzy, our faith sustains us. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." John 6:29

We must, therefore, be "People of the Bread" but we must also be "People of the Wine." Wine, unlike bread, is not the sustenance of life. It does, however, have a number of interesting characteristics. First, it affords healing. In fact, Paul tells us to "...have a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent illnesses." 1 Tim 5:23

Maybe more notoriously, wine is intoxicating. I see an analogy here also, however. As the bread symbolizes the non-experiential, "grounded in faith" component of our spirituality, so does the wine represent the experiential, charismatic component. The aspect of healing, one of the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, is emblematic of our charismatic nature.

Wine is intoxicating; God should be intoxicating. Wine makes us drunk; God, through the Holy Spirit, makes us as if drunk with "...too much new wine." Acts 2:13 God should be real, alive, personal, present and

exciting in our lives. He should, however, be even beyond excitement. He should be an intoxicant.

"Intoxicated" is an interesting word. It certainly is used to describe a person who is inebriated. Often, however, it is used to characterize the attitude of lovers toward one another, to label a very special relationship, to describe the bond between a man and the love of his life. It is never used lightly; it is a word which conveys the superlative about a relationship. Again I say, "**We should be intoxicated by God.**"

And so we are People of the Bread and the Wine. How blessed we are to have the opportunity to receive the Lord under both species. How graced we are to be nourished and sustained by the Body of Jesus; how graced we are to be gifted with the charisms; how graced we are to receive God's ardent love and be able to experience and express our love for God in return.

¹ Dictionary of the Liturgy, Rev. Jovian P. Lang, OFM, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1989, p. 71

² Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, Lawrence O. Richards, The Zondervan Corp., 1985, p. 140

Healing Masses

July 2 - Tuesday - St. Peter's, No. St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O'Connor at 651-777-4406.

July 11 - Thursday - Anointing Mass - **Holy Name of Jesus**, Wayzata. Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m. Celebrant: Fr. Jonathan Licari. Contact: Teresa Walker at 763-553-1343 for more info.

July 15 - Monday - St. Therese Church, St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. in their lower chapel (below the Church) Contact: Sr. Mary Anne 651-690-1501.

August 6 - Tuesday - St. Peter's, No. St. Paul - 7:30 p.m. Contact: Bob O'Connor at 651-777-4406.

August 19 - Monday - St. Therese Church, St. Paul (below the Church) - Contact: Sr. Mary Anne 651-690-1501

Upcoming Events

July 13 – Saturday – Prayer Group Leaders’ Gathering 9:30-12:00 – *“Life in the Spirit Seminars—Is There a Right Way to Do Them?”*- Immaculate Conception Church, Fellowship Hall, 4030 Jackson Street, Columbia Heights. Call CCRO for info.

August 23-24 - “Holy and Empowered: God’s Vision for You” - Annual Catholic Charismatic Regional Conference – to be held at St. Bonaventure Church, Bloomington, MN Healing Service Friday night. General sessions and workshops all day Saturday. Closing Mass with Bishop Pates.

September 13-15 - Catholic Charismatic Renewal **National Conference** – Pittsburgh, PA Want to go? Want more info and travel options? Call CCRO 612-721-2543

September 14-15 – Camp Out for Christ 2002 at Bunker Hills County Park in Blaine. Call Karen for information, campsite prices, and directions: 763-441-7829

September 21-22 – Teaching weekend with Fr. Dimitri Sala – Epiphany Church, school library. Call CCRO for info.

September 27-29 - Spiritual Renewal & Healing Conference – Mandan, ND – Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol and Fr. John Capuci. Info: 701-222-3035