

# CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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## 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.*

### *Is America Still Good?*

by Larry Nawrocki

One cannot pick up a periodical or turn on the radio or television without hearing bad news. Most of it deals with Iraq. We anguish over the violence going on there, and, while we regret the loss of all human life, we are particularly affected when an American soldier or marine from our little corner of the world dies in the conflict.

Recently, however, the revelation of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners has come to light. I find this abuse particularly abhorrent. Clearly, the United States has forfeited any moral high ground it might have once held. We already are seeing repercussions in this regard. The United States recently challenged the ability of the Sudan to be a member of a particular United Nations commission because of its human rights violations. The come-back made by the Sudan was that the United States is in no position to challenge Sudan's record in view of the atrocities which have occurred in Iraq.

Even more significant to me, however, is the sheer brutality of the acts. In a recent editorial in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the writer aptly characterizes my feelings as "...the furor [that] began to build following the display of brutality photos on CBS' '60 Minutes' last week..." The writer then went on to fairly

graphically describe the specific abuses which occurred. I won't.

As I read through the first half of the editorial, I was, to some extent, surprised that the writer and I were in agreement. As the editorial progressed, however, my views started to diverge from those expressed by the writer. It became more political and criticized the administration. It asserted that "In Iraq, we have instance after instance of people up and down the chain of command – from Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld to the MP's at Abu Ghraib – demonstrating extremely poor judgment." One may agree or disagree with an inattention to duty position, but I think the more significant issue is that the soldiers' conduct illustrates the moral decay occurring in our country. Individuals are fallible and can make poor decisions, but deterioration of conscience is a more global issue.

That is not to say that any of us has a monopoly on righteousness, for we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23. Here in America, however, we statutorily ratify sin. Life and human dignity are cheapened by the millions of "legal" abortions performed each year. The fundamental fabric of society is damaged by the attempt to "solemnize and sanctify" same sex marriages. It is in such an environment that judgments are made, and they are unavoidably influenced by what is considered to be "legal".

Societal norms are ultimately formed by what we as individuals believe, what we as individuals observe, and by what we as individuals are willing to stand up for. As we individually go, so goes society.

I don't remember who said it, but I believe it: "America is good because Americans are good." With the world as it is, it becomes too easy to make compromises. I believe that now is a critical time in history. It is not a time for compromise; it is certainly not a time for unmitigated surrender to what is wrong. It is, rather, a time for boldness. It is a time to not compromise what is right. It is a time for each and every individual to be good. It is a time for America to be good again.

Pray for our country.

### ***CCC: Body and Soul but Truly One***

**362** The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. The biblical account expresses this reality in symbolic language when it affirms that "then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."<sup>229</sup> Man, whole and entire, is therefore, *willed* by God.

**363** In Sacred Scripture the term "soul" often refers to human life or the entire human person<sup>230</sup>. But "soul" also refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him,<sup>231</sup> that by which he is most especially in God's image: "soul" signifies the *spiritual principle* in man.

**364** The human body shares in the dignity of "the image of God": it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit.<sup>232</sup>

Man, though made of body and soul, is a unity. Through his very bodily condition he sums up in himself the elements of the material world. Through him they are thus brought to their highest perfection and can raise their voice in praise freely given to the

Creator. For this reason man may not despise his bodily life. Rather he is obliged to regard his body as good and to hold it in honor since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day.

**365** The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the "form" of the body. i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.

**366** The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not "produced" by the parents – and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.

**367** Sometimes the soul is distinguished from the spirit: St. Paul for instance prays that God may sanctify his people "wholly," with "spirit and soul and body" kept sound and blameless at the Lord's coming. The Church teaches that this distinction does not introduce a duality into the soul. "Spirit" signifies that from creation man is ordered to a supernatural end and that his soul can gratuitously be raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God.

**368** The spiritual tradition of the Church also emphasizes the *heart*, in the biblical sense of the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God.

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229 Gen 2:7.

230 Cf. Mt 16:25-26; Jn 15:13; Acts 2:41.

231 Cf. Mt 10:28; 26:38; Jn 12:27; 2 Macc 6:30.

232 Cf. 1 Cor 6:19-20; 15:44-45.

### ***Announcements***

#### ***"The Living, Loving Body of Christ"***

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col. 3:12-14)*

***Q. What do the weekends of Memorial Day and Pentecost have in common?***

***A. It's the same weekend as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota!***

Yes, time is nearing for the 2004 Regional Charismatic Conference, "*The Living, Loving Body of Christ*". This year's conference will be held at St. Bonaventure's in Bloomington. The auditorium space is limited, so if you haven't already registered, do so soon. Need a ride? Contact the Renewal Office and we will connect you with someone in your area.

This year's lineup of speakers includes **Bishop Paul Dudley, Jeff Cavins, and R. T. Kendall**. The insights they share will inspire and challenge you. Come to hear **Jackie Millar's** dynamic witness to the healing power of forgiveness in her own life. The speakers are witnesses to the love and mercy of the Lord and the tremendous freedom experienced through forgiveness. An unforgiving heart not only *holds* you in bondage, it can actually *create* problems for you—physically, emotionally, spiritually. It is a well-known and proven fact that unforgiveness will block healing. Forgiveness and reconciliation is a powerful avenue to freedom. Like Lazarus, we want to "be loosed" of our bonds and "set free".

We come before the Lord and seek His face, to worship and adore Him. We ask for a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon our lives and our world. Let's imitate the disciples who were assembled in the Upper Room on that first Pentecost by prayerfully preparing our hearts as we now await a further infilling of the Holy Spirit. As we come to this conference with open, yielded hearts, we will experience a new power in our lives to live as witnesses for Jesus in our day.

The annual conference is Pentecost weekend

(May 28-29) when we celebrate the birthday of the Church and the dynamic power of God's Spirit of Love to heal and dramatically change lives. Love is life-giving. More things are accomplished through love than any other way.

From testimonies of forgiveness to celebrations of the love and healing power of the Holy Spirit, it will be a conference that demonstrates the freedom and joy forgiveness brings to those who risk living it.

The conference will be at:  
St. Bonaventure  
Catholic Community (school)  
(1.8 miles east of 35W on 90<sup>th</sup> Street)  
901 E. 90<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN  
**Register today!**

Invite your family and friends to join us Saturday evening as our conference closes with a dynamic Pentecost Mass—a truly wonderful celebration of the birthday of the Church. Everyone is welcome!

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**The National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference** will be held June 25-27, 2004 at Paul E. Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Massachusetts. This year's conference theme is "*Lord, We Long to See Your Face*". Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* exhorts us to be or become people who contemplate the face of Christ. Join the National Service Committee and the Association of Diocesan Liaisons in Lowell, MA to seek the Lord's face...in the fullness of glory...in the faces of the poor...through intercession and healing prayer. Dynamic speakers include Jim Murphy, Barbara Shlemon Ryan, Fr. Bruce Nieli, Fr. Richard Ho Lung and Fr. Marc Montminy. Convenient online registration at [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).

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*Upcoming Events*

*Healing Masses*

**May 4** – Tuesday – **St. Peter's**, No. St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. Contact: Deacon Bob O'Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

**May 13** -- Thursday – **Holy Name of Jesus**, Wayzata – 6:30 p.m. Rosary; 7:00 p.m. Mass – Celebrant: Fr. James Livingston – Contact: Therese Walker for more information and directions – (763) 553-1343.

**May 17** – Monday – **St. Therese Church**, St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. in the lower chapel (below the church) – Contact: Sister Mary Anne (651) 690-1501.

**June 1** – Tuesday – **St. Peter's**, No. St. Paul –

7:30 p.m. Contact: Deacon Bob O'Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

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

*Special Events*

**May 28-29** – **The ANNUAL CCRO CONFERENCE** – *“The Living, Loving Body of Christ”* - **Bishop Paul Dudley, Jeff Cavins, R.T. Kendall, Jackie Millar** – St. Bonaventure (Ambrose Hall) – Bloomington, MN. - Volunteers needed.

**June 25-27** – National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference – *“Lord, We Long to See Your Face”* – Lowell, Massachusetts – <http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org>