

The 45th Anniversary celebration in Philadelphia:  
Let Us Pray with One Heart together with Mary in the Upper Room  
Julie Sawyer

The text of the report from *Pentecost Today* follows. Probably the most noteworthy speaker for me was Dorothy Ranaghan, who gave a brief history of the Renewal post-Duquesne. It was a privilege to meet her afterward and tell her that the book she and her husband Kevin wrote -- *The Catholic Pentecostals* -- changed our lives, part of the catalyst that took Bob from the position of agnostic to that of a believer in the Lord Jesus. Her closing quote: "There is always more" has become a theme in our lives. Saturday morning we saw Bob Canton wheeled out of the room in a wheelchair -- pushed by a woman who had not been able to walk until the Lord touched her in the healing service. Walter Matthews expanded on his presentation of the Jubilee and the time of preparation. That was the theme of the May Archdiocese prayer meeting here in Baltimore.

The first part of this preparation has already begun. I'd like us to consider thoughtfully the following questions. Some of you are "babes" to the Renewal. In case you haven't figured it out, like everything else the Renewal is made up of people -- frail, human people. We mean well but don't always live up to our own wishes to "love one another".

Tuck this in to your Bible and take it out now and then.  
45 Years of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church -- heading to 50.

Reflection -- is there anyone in the Renewal I need to forgive? Have I ever felt like an outsider?

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Repentance. Sorry for something I might have said or done to offend someone. Or not been willing to help when asked.

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Reconciliation: A wounded relationship I can help repair?

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Dialogue: Am I willing to take steps to work out disagreements? \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_

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By Christmas with the action of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we will be ready for the next step:

**2013: Year of Spirit-Filled Faith. We will:**

- Celebrate the Year of Faith in the Church and baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Emphasize the experience of Pentecost and the grace of Charismatic Renewal.
- Reach out to youth and young adults.

Bob (Sawyer) experienced a "lab" for this Jubilee preparation when he was part of the Uganda National Charismatic Leaders' Conference in July. People from ten English-speaking African countries came together, looking at taking a priestly position, praying in to the future of their countries. It is evident that the fifty years of Independence from Colonialism hasn't worked out very well. (Idi Amin, tribal warfare, *etc.*) There was genuine repentance -- and forgiveness. As the only white person among 500 Africans, he was asked to stand in as people dealt with their relationships -- and wounds -- with the British, the Dutch, the Belgians, and the French. And they repented for their national sins against the Europeans. Let us pray for them as they go forward.

Closing with a modified version of the last paragraph from the report:

In my heart I take time to ponder these words from "Draw me Close," {You're all I want, You're all I've ever needed, help me know You are near} and may it bring me back to the simplicity of my baptism in the Holy Spirit in such a way that I am empowered to go forward.

Or we can link to <http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/45thRecap.asp>

Jesus is near calling each of us to live more fully in expectant faith that proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ will transform and renew the face of the earth. So recall the power of baptism in the Holy Spirit and recognize the importance of these next five years of preparing for the Jubilee Year so that when we gather in 2017 we will have crossed into the Promised Land and dwell fully in the New Covenant.

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*Draw Me Close*  
by Jane Guenther

The celebration of the 45th Anniversary helped us return to the simplicity of baptism in the Holy Spirit. We enjoyed being drawn into the Upper Room experience praying with Mary with one heart. Friday evening we began with the celebration of the Eucharist after some beautiful praise and worship led by a blended music group of all the different ethnic groups. The Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, **Bishop John McIntyre** was the main celebrant of the Mass. At the preparation of the gifts, as we sang "Draw Me Close," the gifts were brought forward in a carrying vessel that represented the Ark of the New Covenant. We are called as the Body of Christ to be members of the New Covenant. The Bishop shared a letter from the Holy Father to the Renewal at the conclusion of Mass that was encouraging to the work of the Charismatic Renewal in the Church.

**Mark Nimo**, from Ghana now living and ministering in Chicago, not only the emcee of the general sessions but also the keynote speaker Friday evening challenged us, setting the groundwork of catechesis of Mary as one who exemplified the virtues of obedience, humility and love that each of us are called to in our discipleship.

Saturday morning began with each group in their own track. The youth track motivated and encouraged by the words of **Fr. Agustino Torres**, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, moved into that close encounter with Jesus as he drew them close through a beautiful Holy Hour. They were drawn into a scriptural dramatization that animated the Word so they might fully live it out.

The English speaking track began with Holy Eucharist celebrated by **Fr. Bob Hogan**, BBD, and Chairman of the NSC. He spoke in his homily of the necessity of being a devoted, united, praying, witnessing and empowered Church. We then heard from **Michelle Moran**, current President of ICCRS, that we could expect a very important "visitation"; contrasting a visit from a visitation she utilized the story of Mary's visitation to Elizabeth where the encounter with Jesus was one of active expectancy. It was intensely personal and profoundly communal. She stated we are a people of history but a people of history with a destiny. We are set on fire as we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and we, through our deeper and deeper union with God, are a people of proclamation—proclaiming Jesus is Lord. **Dorothy Ranaghan** gave us a beautiful historical context of the Renewal since the Duquesne Weekend in 1967. For the fullness of this history contact Resurrection Communications for a copy her talk or visit our website. As she took us through the 45 years, it led to her final recognition of the fruits of the Renewal that have birthed so many ministries that display the sovereign work of God. She ended with Fr. Jim Ferry's tag line—"there is always more." **Fr. James Kelly**, an Irish missionary priest serving God's people in Venezuela, spoke to us about the cenacle and how these moments of the upper room can happen many places. In his journey from Venezuela he conducted a cenacle at the airport as he waited twelve hours to get on the plane, praying the rosary right there. Do we have that holy boldness to form cenacles of prayer in the most ordinary of places? After lunch, **Kim DiSanti** gave a beautiful witness of coming into the Catholic faith and healing from cancer and healing for her family. She manifested a charism of singing in tongues and interpretation of those tongues that ministered to those present in a profound way. **Mark Nimo** was the final speaker in our track teaching on charisms. We must smell like the aroma of Christ in the world. Using the story of the alabaster jar, we have to break our jar and let the aroma be released for the common good. These charisms given through baptism in the Holy Spirit have

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to be received, given thanks for, opened fully and used to be efficacious in the Kingdom. Prayer to receive a fuller outpouring of the charisms ended the track.

The Filipino track was blessed to have **Bob Canton**, a leader of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities, and other speakers. **Fr. John Gordon**, former member of the NSC, was main celebrant and homilist for Mass. Michelle Moran walked the group through a talk on leadership, expressing the pitfalls of leadership that sometimes lack recognizing and putting into action the charisms of the members. In the healing service there were many manifestations of God's love. Likewise, the Haitian track filled with vibrant praise experienced the wonderful outpouring of the Spirit. More about these tracks will be available on the NSC website.

Saturday evening all were blessed as the ethnic streams came back together to celebrate the 45th Anniversary along with those brothers and sisters in our home communities whom we invited to join us in celebration. We raised the roof praising God and experiencing a real fire of the Holy Spirit descending upon us. Celebratory elements of glow sticks and flags elevated the praise to a real expression of glory. **Dave de la Fuente** gave witness to his desire to bring his covenant community upbringing into the local parish. He stressed the call to evangelize young adults and youth, and to bring apostolic zeal and unity into the Church. Doing so, we will have the hope to create an unprecedented renewal. **Fr. James Kelly** broke open the Word: beginning with the expressions of salvation in the story of Noah and the flood, opportunities for conversion as in the story of Zaccheus, our many persecutions and exiles resulting in the true promise of God setting his people free. Baptism of the Holy Spirit moves us past and out of the persecution and into the opportunity to preach the Word. The evening ended as he led us with prayer for healing in groups of three or four. God visited his people and broke down barriers.

Sunday morning we gathered together to hear from **Michelle Moran** the amazing task of this kairos moment to go forth from the Upper Room to the ends of the earth proclaiming the Good News. "Cross the River Jordan and take the promised land," this metaphor for "take the land" must be understood by each of us as something that we discern for ourselves as we embrace becoming trail blazers of the New Evangelization. It is the response to the prophetic word spoken in St. Peter's Square in 1975: "I will prepare you for an evangelization that the world has not known." We are living in a "Perpetual Pentecost." We need to embrace the spirituality of Pentecost and leave the Upper Room and live the mission, as Michelle challenged us to "grow up and go out." **Walter Matthews**, Executive Director for the NSC, then shared the five-year preparation plan for the Charismatic Renewal and the Jubilee year in 2017, a time of fulfillment, a time of summoning. See Walter's article on page 3.

**Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia**, a national leader in the Haitian and Hispanic Renewal, was the main celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass and drew us into the very gift of our Faith as we celebrated the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. He animated for us the presence of the Father, through the Son, with the power of the Holy Spirit that flows forth from the Father. He expressed the very Trinitarian nature of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image that was processed in at the opening of the conference. It exemplifies Mary as daughter of the **Father**, Mary as spouse of the **Holy Spirit** and Mary as Mother of the **Son**.

In your hearts take time to ponder these words from "Draw me Close," {You're all I want, You're all I've ever needed, help me know You are near} and may it bring you back to the simplicity of your baptism in the Holy Spirit in such a way that you are empowered to go forward.