

Association of Diocesan Liaisons Newsletter

Fall and
Winter 2022

The Chair's Corner

By: Jane Guenther, Chair, ADL Steering Committee



Jane Guenther

I am so grateful for the work that volunteers in Deacon Darrell Wentworth's Community did in service of the ADL and of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal nationwide, taking the time to get updates on the list of liaisons across all the archdioceses and dioceses. We will soon place this

information on our ADL website to help us interface more quickly with other liaisons.

I am also very happy that many were able to join us for the online prayer meeting and short business meeting on September 11, 2022. The words shared during the prayer meeting were beautiful, particularly the following prophecy,

"You are My beloved ones. I call you My precious remnant. I call you to be alert. I call you to be aware. I call you to burn hot with the fire of My Holy Spirit. I call you to speak My truth without compromise to a lost and dying world. I call you to share My Love, My healing, My truth, and to bring souls into the Kingdom. I call you to work diligently in the vineyard. As you follow Me in obedience and surrender you will bear much fruit. Although you are a small remnant, you will bear much fruit. Seek diligently after Me and follow me. Be not afraid; I gift you now with holy boldness to speak My truth in love for My Kingdom and out of love for Me. To my remnant you

are being given new wisdom, power and understanding from My Holy Throne."

The next online gathering will be January 8, 2023, so mark your calendars to join us at 8 p.m. EST; 7 p.m. CST; 6 p.m. MST; and 5 p.m. PST. What does the liaisons' gathering mean for you and me? It is a way to help the Association become stronger in its identity of being a network that can help make each of our roles stronger in the way we have been called to serve our bishops. I want to make sure that each of you also are reserving the dates April 17-21, 2023, to join us for the Convocation in Oklahoma City, OK. You can expect to receive the registration material in the coming weeks.

Over the years I have learned how important it is for us to be in union with others when we are in association for some particular purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:9 states, "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Fellowship means "sharing," "communion with," "companionship with," or "association with." We have been called into an association because we share in a common love for the same Person—Jesus Christ—and in the gift of the

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The Chair's Corner

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grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit which indeed is the work of the Renewal in our dioceses. I bring this up so that we can understand that each appointed liaison makes this association stronger and more meaningful when we come into fellowship with one another in God's Son.

Speaking of gaining strength from being in fellowship, the first CHARIS conference, which also represented the 55th Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, took place in Rhode Island in July. It was a wonderful time of communion and companionship among the varying streams of the Renewal. CHARIS has a subcommittee discerning and crafting a document on baptism in the Holy Spirit that will include an explanation, a timeline and pastoral responses regarding this grace that we have been called to shepherd. I am looking forward to letting you know more about this in the coming months.

May you each find yourselves desiring to connect with others in our Association so that the fellowship we have been called into will be more fulfilled.

Jane Guenther,
Director, Catholic Renewal Center, Crestwood, MO
Chair, ADL Steering Committee

Ms. Jane Guenther is the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO. She serves as liaison for the Renewal and is the Diocesan Point person for the Eucharistic Revival. She is also a Director for the Seminary Formation Council and serves as the National Ministries representative in CHARIS USA. She is married, has four sons and ten grandchildren.

Prophecy from the ADL Meeting, September 11, 2022

“

You are My beloved ones. I call you My precious remnant. I call you to be alert. I call you to be aware. I call you to burn hot with the fire of My Holy Spirit. I call you to speak My truth without compromise to a lost and dying world. I call you to share My Love, My healing, My truth, and to bring souls into the Kingdom. I call you to work diligently in the vineyard. As you follow Me in obedience and surrender you will bear much fruit. Although you are a small remnant, you will bear much fruit. Seek diligently after Me and follow me. Be not afraid; I gift you now with holy boldness to speak My truth in love for My Kingdom and out of love for Me. To my remnant you are being given new wisdom, power and understanding from My Holy Throne.

God Opens Eyes, Shakes Up with Surprise, Puts Mouths in a Vise!

Homily on the Transfiguration by Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood



Fr. Chuck Wood

“Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory. ...

“Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, ... Let’s make three tents ...’ While he said these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were

afraid. ...

“A voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son. *Listen to him!*’” (Lk 9:32–33, 34, 35; emphasis mine).

Let’s breakdown the miraculous event of the Transfiguration into the three mini-events in the above Scripture verses. They show what God might do and might call us to, when we “stand in the gap for one another” (see Ez 22:30 and Ps 106:23). But first, let’s breakdown the word, “gap.”

It might make some people think of the retail clothing/fashion company that started in 1969 with its “Gap” stores. That new company’s target customers who were on the younger side of the “generation gap”, which a lot of people identified as causing the cultural eruptions of the time. Reliable sources report that when the company’s founders chose its name, that’s the “gap” they had in mind.

But another Christian once told me that what comes to mind when she sees that brand’s “GAP” logo, is “God Answers Prayer!”

When we stand in that “G.A.P.,” God can “do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph 3:20). Among God’s abundant works, three are in today’s Gospel (Lk 9:28b–36).

First, God can wake us from sleep (see v. 32). Maybe it’s the slumber of sin; maybe the drowsiness of indifference to injustice. No matter! God opens our eyes to divine glory at work in us and around us. That fresh watchfulness reveals opportunities for God to work through you, using you to pull down strongholds of evil and to build up what’s holy (see 1 Pt 5:8, 2 Cor 10:4, Phil 2:13).

Those opportunities might surprise, even frighten, you. No matter! That’s like the Apostles, “afraid” when God arrived (Lk 9:34). Challenges like that are a second way God answers prayer. See, when praying that God’s will be done, we stand in the G.A.P. for others—or they, for us. In answer, God might shake things up and surprise us with new callings and new graces to fulfill them.

Our response, like Peter’s here, might be to suggest “better” ways. Then God might move to put our lips in a “metal tool with movable jaws that holds an object firmly in place while work is done on it.”

That is, God might put your mouth in a vise and say, “The only ‘movable jaws’ here should belong to my Son and my ‘Holy Vise,’ aka the Holy Spirit!” (My paraphrase of Lk 9:35, where God the Father say, “Listen to him!”). Yes, God’s answer to prayer can mirror the Transfiguration’s third mini-event, the command to listen. Is God holding your mouth firmly in place while he works on you? No matter! If today God clamps down on you, in due time he’ll amp up your witnessing voice for proclaiming his Good News.

Does God need to open our eyes, shake us up with surprise, or put our mouths in a vise? Let’s humbly yet boldly pray, “Bring it on!” and trust that we’ll thrive as God transfigures us ... especially if we stand in the “G.A.P.” for one another.

Adapted by Fr. Chuck from his homily-based reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent, in the [2022 Blog of Eat The Scroll Ministry](#). Scripture citations from the [World English Bible](#), a public domain translation.

Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood is the ADL Newsletter editor and CCR Liaison for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. He is pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungry Church in Portland, OR and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Abbey Foundation of Oregon, which supports Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary. In the year 2000, he graduated from Mount Angel Seminary.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio, TX

By Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD



Fr. Bob Hogan,

The Charismatic Renewal came to San Antonio, TX in 1969-70. We are blessed that, since 1987, we've had a two-story building that is the home for the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal, San Antonio. We have a chapel, a store selling religious books and articles, meeting rooms, a main office and a youth

office. I am the director of the Center in a part-time fashion. I am also the pastor of a church and the moderator of our charismatic religious community, the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. We have an Assistant Director and many volunteers who staff the bookstore, do the finances, care for the building, etc. We have an English Service Committee, a Spanish Service Committee, and a Youth Service Committee; all of them work with me in discerning and planning the directions and programs of the Center. We work with about 40 prayer groups in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Our Vision Statement says: "We seek to be a reminder of the importance of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of Catholic life. We foster:

1) **A Grace for Renewal in the Holy Spirit:**

The dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early church at Pentecost. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an adult affirmation, and renewal, of the graces of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

2) **A Lifestyle in the Holy Spirit:** A relationship and lifestyle in the Holy Spirit where we depend daily on our Advocate for love, inspiration, guidance, wisdom, growth in holiness, empowerment, and gifts for building up the body of Christ (service and evangelization).

We believe in the importance of being an active member of a prayer/faith-sharing group to resist the bad influences in our culture, and to be able to support each other in our Catholic lifestyle.

Our Mission Statement says that we are: "An evangelistic ministry of the Archdiocese of San Antonio seeking to invite people to experience a life-changing personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and ongoing life in the Spirit through prayer groups, Life in the Spirit Seminars, a yearly conference, renewal days, youth

ministry, prayer ministry, spiritual gifts workshops, and other training programs that are offered at the Center and at parishes, so that we can follow the call of Pope Francis to live as missionary disciples and Spirit-filled evangelizers." We offer both English and Spanish programs.

Besides the Vision and Mission Statements our introductory pamphlet explains five major focuses for charismatic renewal:

- 1) Charismatic Renewal Focuses on the Role of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- 2) The Value of Receiving Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- 3) The Value of Receiving Charisms (spiritual gifts) for Service and Evangelization.
- 4) The Value of the Prayer of Praise and Worship.
- 5) The Value of Prayer Group Communities.

Like everyone, we have been in the process of re-focusing—and discerning God's direction—as everything was slowed down because of COVID-19. We are bringing our leaders and groups together to renew the vision for the current of grace of charismatic renewal. People need to understand Pope Francis' vision for the Renewal. People need to again be presented with the basics of what charismatic renewal is about. We are seeking to help people to understand this better, and to recommit ourselves to the grace of charismatic renewal. We seek to find ways to help our dioceses, priests, lay leaders and others to understand baptism in the Holy Spirit and the full role of the Holy Spirit.

As a member of the CHARIS National Service of Communion USA, I am a member of a committee that is putting together a document, and exploring other means (internet, etc.) of better explaining baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church. We hope to have that document with other suggestions available by the beginning of 2023. Please keep this effort in prayer.

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is the co-founder with Fr. George Montague, SM of the charismatic and Marian religious community, The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. He is a member of the CHARIS National Service of Communion USA supporting charismatic renewal in the USA.



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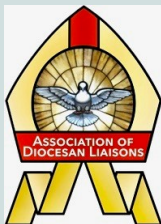
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