

Association of Diocesan Liaisons Newsletter

*Fall and
Winter 2019*

The Chair's Corner

By: Fr. Anthony Ouellette, Chair, ADL Steering Committee



Fr. Ouellette

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Just recently, my archdiocese finished a convocation at which about 1,400 leaders from all our parishes were present. Its theme was, *"Enflame Our Hearts: Be Disciples, Make Disciples,"* and its purpose was to initiate the New Evangeliza-

tion in the archdiocese. I have to admit that I was rather skeptical about what this convocation would actually achieve. Worst-case scenario: We would be given a new 3-ring binder containing another new program to implement—meaning more meetings, more reports, new pastoral priorities and benchmarks, and a push to find more volunteers from our parishes to do all this.

Well, the Holy Spirit was spoken of abundantly, and the keynote speakers kept us grounded by their invitations to first receive our identity as sons and daughters of God and not to strive to base our identity on what we do. So the three days we were together were actually a pleasant surprise to me. Yet in the days following, as I reflected upon the event I recognized that there was something missing in all of this.

While the Holy Spirit was invoked and proclaimed as fundamental to the success of our evangelization efforts, we did not speak of how we are to work with the Holy Spirit. We didn't explore how the Holy Spirit worked through Jesus in signs and wonders, gifts and charism, and that this is how we are also invited to

evangelize. Much was spoken about authentic and intentional relationship, about the proclamation of the Kerygma of our faith, and about personal witness and relationship with Jesus, which is all excellent. But what does this all look like when one is anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, as Jesus was?

As I stewed over what was lacking on the part of those who put all this together, I was sternly reminded, as only Jesus can do, that supplying what was lacking was my job and the role of those who know this extraordinary grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We are the missing piece for many of the evangelization efforts that are popping up everywhere across the nation. In saying this, there is no place for pride or triumphalism on our part. If we humbly recognize ourselves as fore-runners, like John the Baptist, who have been given a great blessing and who are privileged to live in this current of grace, then we will see clearly to share with the rest of the Church our experience and our learning over these past fifty-plus years.

Now is not the time for *"I told you so,"* or *"It's about time you listened to us."* It's time for us to humbly walk with our brothers and sisters and to

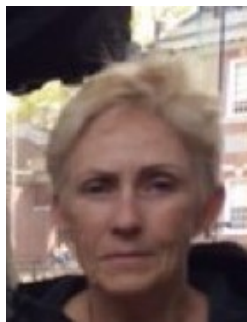
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The 2019 and 2020 ADL Convocations

By Jackie Morgan and Marianne Skrobiak



Jackie Morgan

Every year according to the Association of Diocesan Liaison's Constitution, liaisons from all over the country and Canada gather for a five day Convocation, normally in April. From Monday through the following Friday, we liaisons listen to a variety of presenters, discussing various subjects. We take part in various spiritual events like Mass and prayer meetings, enjoy various social activities, and, of

course, conduct the business meeting. This year we had a quorum, and so we were able to adjust some of the by-laws and change the Constitution slightly. The Steering Committee officers are also voted into office, during this time.

Marianne Skrobiak, who chaired the Steering Committee for several years, described how these Convocations have affected her, and I thought you might be interested in what she has to say. So I'm including that here, along with a "heads-up" about the next Convocation.

Great Gifts with Great Colleagues

Upon returning home from our 2019 ADL Convocation in St. Louis, MO in May, I found myself going through withdrawal. Being with my brothers and sisters and their spouses for a week, praising and worshipping together, praying together, sharing meals and our own lives, was like a booster shot. I have gained so much by being active in this organization. I've enjoyed working and praying side by side with some of the finest.



Marianne Skrobiak

Of course, we had work to do too, and we made decisions based on recommendations by our Steering Committee. Having served six years on the steering committee myself, I know firsthand how much time, energy and commitment it takes. I applaud those who've gone before and those who are currently serving. I pray that with the new CHARIS National Service of Communion

(page 3), we can attract more liaisons to join us. I think we are like an army, with our boots on the ground, equipped with the gifts of the Spirit—some working as lone rangers without offices or other means of support.

At the convocation we welcomed some people who joined us for the first time, and we renewed longstanding friendships; all were a gift. These are dear friends with whom I've shared life and ministry. They've made me a better person and a better leader for my Archdiocese. Through the ADL, the Lord has blessed me in so many ways.

None of us can do this alone! With the ADL we have the unique opportunity to interface with many others in diverse situations. Together we can bring about "*a new season in bringing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*" to all.

Marianne Skrobiak

The 2020 ADL Convocation

Next year, the Convocation will be held in Kansas City KS, April 20-24. The presenter will be Jim Beckman, a member of the National Service Committee, along with a panel of young adults. The topic will be "*Engaging Young Adults in the Renewal*." Attracting young adults to the Charismatic Renewal has always been problematic in my archdiocese, and I can only assume that we are not alone. Please see the attached flyer for information (page 8). Registration and fee notifications should be out in the next few months. From my experience, these convocations are worth every penny they cost to attend.

Jackie Morgan is a former member of the ADL Steering Committee and is currently the ADL Newsletter Production Manager. She is also the Associate Liaison, Archdiocese of Portland, Portland, OR and a leader in the St. Anne Prayer Group.

Marianne Skrobiak is the former ADL Chairperson and is the Liaison for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI.

Mark your Calendar for the 2020 ADL Convocation

April 20—24, 2020

Savior Pastoral Center Kansas City, KS

“Meet Me in St. Louis”—The 2019 ADL Convocation

By: Fr. Jim Delaney S.J.



Fr. Jim Delaney S.J.

A major component of the 2019 ADL Convocation was a discussion focused on the nature and functions of CHARIS, a new international service for Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), which replaced ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity on Pentecost 2019.

Jane Guenther presented information about CHARIS, as it is developing in its early stages, and how this will affect us as liaisons in our local dioceses. It will be under the Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life in the Vatican, and through CHARIS' representatives, this organization will give the CCR a voice in the heart of the Church.

It is to be a service to all expressions of the CCR. As such, it will not exercise authority or governance over the Renewal or any of its expressions. Rather, it is meant to foster and serve the current of grace rooted in Baptism of the Holy Spirit and to help those walking in it so that they can grow in unity.

CHARIS is organized on three levels: International, Continental (Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania, and Europe), and National. At the International and Continental levels, an assembly of representatives will meet every three years, and a smaller body [International (Continental) Service of Communion] will meet annually.

The National level is much more flexible. For the United States, a working group was formed at an expanded gathering in Tempe, AZ in early February, consisting of various national CCR leadership groups. The working group will continue to broaden the representation at the February gathering in 2020, selecting a US representative for the Continental Service of Communion. Expectations are that the February gathering will

become the National Service of Communion (NSoC).

Although the CHARIS initiative does not mention a structure below the NSoC, we looked at our own roles in the light of CHARIS, exploring how this might look in a diocese (DSoC, so to speak). We saw liaisons having a key role in helping link groups together. It begins by establishing and fostering personal relations between individuals in different groups within the Renewal. Doing this will allow us to benefit from one another's gifts and to cooperate in putting on events that serve the Renewal as a whole and that serve the wider Church as well.

We also asked how the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) will relate to the NSoC. The steering committee will explore the possibility of combining our annual convocation with the February NSoC gathering. The thought was that liaisons would participate in the gathering as representatives of their dioceses, and then meet separately afterwards (see



Participants at the ADL Convocation.

www.charis.international/en/documents/ for more information.

Other Items:

The entire week was saturated with prayer. We often extended our time of praise and worship and our personal ministry time. In addition to our peer-to-peer ministry, we took time to intercede for the new work God is doing in the Renewal. Wednesday morning we had a few hours of personal retreat time to seek the Lord.

Wednesday afternoon we took our traditional excursion. We started with a wonderful architectural tour of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and visited its museum. After a visit to the Gateway Arch and its museum, we drove to the new Cathedral for a tour and Mass with

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“Meet Me in St. Louis” — The 2019 ADL Convocation

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the retired auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, Robert Hermann. The Cathedral is adorned with the largest collection of mosaics in the Western Hemisphere and is truly spectacular. After Mass we had dinner at an Italian restaurant before returning to Our Lady of the Snows.

The main item at our annual business meeting on Thursday was simplifying the bylaws. The changes gave the Steering Committee greater flexibil-



Photograph of the interior of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO.

ity in planning the annual Convocation and entrusted them with setting the annual dues. (See our [website for the current version](#).)

Friday closed out the week with networking and of course the Holy Mass. We dispersed after lunch, leaving the Convocation with a lot to think and pray about.

Fr. Jim Delaney S.J. is the Pastoral Coordinator, SCRC Los Angeles, CA. He has been active in the Charismatic Renewal since 1971. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1975 and was ordained in 1985. He taught Mathematics at Loyola Mary-

mount University for seven years. Since 1991, he has been Pastoral Coordinator for SCRC. He is the Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and a member of the Board of Directors of SCRC.

The Chair's Corner

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give witness to the transformative power that has been a part of our lives through the Holy Spirit and *can be* a part of theirs. Now is the time for us to teach the “how” of working in the Holy Spirit. Now is the moment of greatest charity as we recognize the time and the season for which we as forerunners have been blessed and prepared.

+m Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette

Fr. Anthony Ouellette is the Chair, ADL Steering Committee. He is Pastor of All Saints Catholic Parish, Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS.



The Lord Sure Was Guarding My Coming and My Going (Part One)

By: Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood , Archdiocese of Portland, OR



Fr. Chuck Wood

A Personal Testimony “Disguised” as a Homily

Note: On the weekend immediately following some clearly providential events which occurred while I was traveling—I gave a personal testimony about those events at St. Wenceslaus Parish, where I’m pastor. Also providentially, I could call that testimony a homily since it illustrated a verse from that weekend’s Responsorial Psalm, namely, “*The LORD will guard your coming and going both now and forever*” (Ps 121:8). In Part One of this adaptation of the homily, I’ll relate the joy-booster that occurred in my going. In the next ADL Newsletter, I’ll tell about the trust-testers that threatened to sabotage my coming back.

I recently had the kind of experience that makes it easy to say, “*The Lord has done great things!*” But that joy faced an immediate two-pronged attack that tested whether I would practice what I’ve been preaching lately about “*returning to the joy of the Lord as fast as possible*” and “*enduring hardships well by seeking God’s help*.” This was based on the book, *Rare Leadership*, by Jim Wilder, in which the second “r” of “Rare” stands for “Return to joy,” and the “e,” for “Endure hardships well.”

In the joy and in the test—during my travels for a wedding in Minnesota—the Lord guarded my “coming and going.” A key factor is a string of choices and circumstances that were contrary to my routine.

First, to minimize travel-reimbursement costs for the bride and groom, I’d booked a discount itinerary using different airlines for my flights going and coming back. Neither airline is one I normally use. Usually I take a duffle bag as carry-on and a zipper-top briefcase for books I’ll read on the plane, etc. This time I only took the duffle because the return airline was going to be “no-frills.” Another unusual thing: Right before my departure, I chose to check my bag at the gate. So I took my books and valuables out of the bag. Then I prayed, “Lord, do something providential with this

change of plans, if you want.”

Among the last passengers to board, I faced two temptations to annoyance: my seat was in the plane’s last row (just in front of a lavatory) and the overheard bins had plenty of room. But I chose not to be annoyed since I’d commended it to the Lord when I checked my bag. Nicely, the seat next to mine stayed empty. That empty aisle seat, among other benefits, let me put my books there instead of decreasing my leg room by stuffing them in the literature pocket of the seat in front of me or keeping them uncomfortably on my lap. The book on top was one by Bishop Robert Barron, and the front cover was facing up. I was not in clergy clothing, by the way. Eventually, someone came down the aisle, glanced at the books as he waited in line for the lavatory, and said, “Ah, a book by Bishop Barron, have you read it? He’s great!”

I explained I was a Catholic priest, reading the book for potential use in the parish where I’m pastor. Then after his turn came in line, instead of returning to his seat, he asked if he could sit down so we could talk. I gladly agreed. Turns out, he’d been raised Protestant but had come into full Communion with the Catholic Church many years ago. Yet in all that time, he explained, he’d always felt he needed a closer, more real connection with the Holy Spirit. (Imagine that!)

So I gladly told him about the Charismatic Renewal and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in connection with a new or renewed commitment to Christ. This renewal, I explained, has blessed me since I was a teenager who was raised Catholic. Since neither of us had anything to write with, I told him to try remembering the name Fr. Cantalamessa and/or the phrase, “preacher to the Papal Household,” and to search online to find and get any of his books about the Holy Spirit and the Renewal.

Standing to return to his seat he said, “I should come to Mass sometime at your parish.”

He’d already told me where he lives, in a suburb bordering Portland on the south. But the parish I serve is in the little town of Scappoose, OR, 20 minutes north of Portland’s north side and considered “way out

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Exciting things Happening in the Milwaukee Archdiocese — PTL!

By: Marianne Skrobiak, Liaison, Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Marianne Skrobiak

The Holy Spirit has been moving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and the momentum is building. For instance, we've experienced the blessings of our second biannual area-wide prayer meeting in mid-October. We put these gatherings on in mid-afternoon on a Saturday, which suits our aging members well. The first one took place in the spring, as did our annual Day of Reflection—time for

spiritual food, Eucharistic Adoration, and fellowship.

Another highlight was an experience of the gift of unity when some of the Milwaukee Pastoral Team met with a group called Spirit in Wisconsin. This body consists of members of the five diocesan pastoral teams from around the state. Through it, we share what is happening in each of our areas in order to encourage collaboration and the support of one another's events.

We always have a special celebration Mass on Pentecost and on the Feast of Christ the King.

In early August, the Milwaukee Catholic Charismatic Renewal offered an amazing conference with the theme: *"EMPOWERED: Renewed, Refreshed, Restored."* We brought in powerful speakers – Fr. Dave Pivonka, Dr. Mark Nimo, Judy Hehr, and Caroline and Dan Dirkes. Dan served as our worship leader throughout the two day event and was wonderful.

We had a record turnout of folks from the Milwaukee area, Madison and other Wisconsin cities, as well as from

Illinois and Minnesota. Despite some travel-plan limitations due to Fr. Dave's new appointment as the President of Steubenville University, we were able to have a full slate of powerful presentations. These talks encouraged our folks to take up the gauntlet and evangelize others as to the power of the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as meeting their own need for personal growth in the Spirit.

We began Friday evening with adoration presided over by our newly ordained Fr. Jordan Berghouse who was a real hit. We all truly felt the power of that prayer, which laid the groundwork for Saturday. We had keynote talks as well as workshops culminating in a power-

ful Mass presided over by Fr. Dave. Many of our folks are still talking about how wonderful it was and how it changed their faith life. We give all glory and honor to our Lord Jesus.

During September 4-13, 2019, I led a group of 13 pilgrims from Milwaukee who journeyed to the Holy Land for a pilgrimage. We experienced a double blessing from the Lord as we combined with another group of Christians to form an ecumenical group. We all focused on our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and it turned out better than expected. God always comes through. We returned physically exhausted but spiritually renewed in our faith commitment to spread the Gospel to all.



Dr. Mark Nimo presenting at the "EMPOWERED: Renewed, Refreshed, Restored" Conference.

Marianne Skrobiak is the former ADL Chairperson and is the Liaison for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI.

A Note from the Charismatic Renewal of the Albany Diocese

By: Jack E. Ellsbury, Co-Liaison, Diocese of Albany



Jack E. Ellsbury

The Albany Diocese consists of some 123 parishes throughout 14 counties in an area of upstate New York that covers 10,419 square miles (according to statistics on our diocesan website). As the CCR Diocesan Service Committee (DSC), we “*take the Show on the road*,” traveling to the furthest points of our diocese to: spread the Good News; support existing prayer groups; help develop new ones; and foster spiritual growth through teachings, healing, and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Among other things, we accomplish the above goals by sponsoring a monthly Mass with Healing Prayer Teams, as well as offering the Life in the Spirit Seminar to parishes throughout the diocese. The DSC Advisory Board meets after each event to evaluate and assess it. In this process, we’ve all come to agree that personal invitation was the key to successful gatherings.

My challenge to each gathering was for every participant to bring just one new person to the next gathering; well, it looks like it worked! People taking up this chal-

lenge could partly account for an increase we experienced between events in the winter and the spring. You see, in February we offered a Day of Reflection with Phyllis Murphy, an Advisory Team member who’s a longtime supporter and prayer minister for the Renewal since its beginning. That gathering represented nine of the 14 counties. Then in April, we put on a Day of Reflection with Bob Valiante, Diocesan Liaison from Scranton, PA, and we saw 100% county representation!

In the fall we will be offering a Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) to a five-parish cluster of catechesis instructors of Confirmation candidates. We feel we must reach out to the younger parishioners by offering these seminars to our teachers. This experience can help the teachers spread the love of the Holy Spirit and offer LISS to the pre-Confirmation students.

Jack Ellsbury has been involved with the renewal since 1974, with several prayer teams, participating in Life in the Spirit Seminars throughout the 14 county Albany diocese, Albany, NY. A member of the Diocesan Service Committee for the CCR, he is currently the Co-Liaison.

The Lord Sure Was Guarding My Coming and My Going (Part One)

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there” in the geographic psychology of the region.

So I said something like, “It’s a bit of a drive from where you live; you probably don’t want to go all that way.”

“Actually,” he replied, “I belong to Wildwood Golf Course just south of Scappoose. So I’m used to driving up there.” (That golf course is some seven minutes from the church!)

I assume we ended with prayer, but I’m honestly not sure. If I neglected that, the Lord made up for it. See, this fellow has already come to the parish for Mass ... not even planning to go golfing afterwards! He gave me

his contact information, and we committed to getting together in the near future. Praise God from whom all blessing flow—through the Charismatic Renewal’s “current of grace” and through a string of unc customary things which turned out to be promptings and workings of the Holy Spirit!

Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood is ADL Newsletter Editor and is the Liaison for the Archdiocese of Portland, OR. He is also the pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish, Scappoose, OR.



KANSAS CITY

2020 ADL Convocation

April 20 thru April 24

Savior Pastoral Center
Kansas City, Kansas

Engaging Young
Adults
In the
Renewal



JOIN US THIS YEAR FOR:

- ♦ EXPERT PRESENTATIONS
- ♦ PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- ♦ CHARIS UPDATE
- ♦ FELLOWSHIP
- ♦ TIME FOR HEALING & EMPOWERMENT

THIS YEAR'S PRESENTER:

Jim Beckman serves as the Executive Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He has been involved with Diocesan and parish ministry, evangelization and leadership development for more than 30 years. A graduate from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1987, Jim has served in various roles of leadership for national, regional and local ministry ever since.



He is a dynamic and passionate speaker and has a great love for the Church.

He has built solid and thriving ministry programs in numerous parishes and Dioceses over the years. Jim also is the Executive Director of ImpactCenter, a non-profit dedicated to leadership development in the Catholic Church, and serves as an adjunct professor for the Augustine Institute, teaching on topics of leadership, evangelization and discipleship. He also serves as an Ambassador for Franciscan University of Steubenville. He and his wife, Meg, live in Oklahoma City with their five children. Beckman was first elected to the National Service Committee in 2015, and again this year.

For more information
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Association of Diocesan Liaisons

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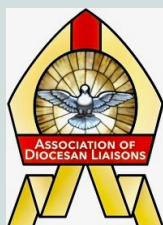
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