

Association of Diocesan Liaisons Newsletter

*Fall and
Winter 2020*

The Chair's Corner

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



Fr. Ouellette

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Apocalyptic, yes, that is how I would describe it. I really didn't make the connection until I reached out to an old friend. I kept trying to describe the events of this year using words like revealing and unveiling. Very ironic that a year whose numbers speaks of clear vi-

sion, 20/20, would contain so many things being brought to light, out into the open. A friend of mine, a biblical scholar, reminded me that the Greek root of "apocalypse" is revelation, "an unveiling or unfolding of things not previously known and which could not be known apart from the unveiling" (Goswiler, Richard, *Revelation*, Pacific Study Series, 1987, p. 3).

COVID-19, lockdowns, no public Masses, Holy Week, elections, scandals in the government, scandals in the Church, Cardinals fired, Cardinals acquitted, protests, riots ... and the KC Chiefs winning the Superbowl. I should have known that the rest of the year would be apocalyptic once the Chiefs won. But seriously, what have you "seen" this year, what has been revealed to you that would not have been known had the events of this year not been as they have?

Personally, I found out how weak my faith was, how much I depended on things and on stuff and on events for my happiness. I learned how much I take

for granted the liberties and freedoms I have, the people in my life. I learned how absent I have been from the present moment, always thinking about the past or worrying about tomorrow. I learned that technology cannot replace other humans. I learned how unprepared my parish was to be disconnected from the sacramental life of the Church and unready to depend on their personal prayer lives for hope and encouragement during these times of difficulty.

I also learned that even though everything seems to have changed, the real things of life still remained the same. Loved ones still died. People still needed help mourning when loved ones died. Boys and girls still kept falling in love and needed to be married. The sacrifice of the Mass was still being offered on the altars of the Church, revealing God's mercy and love. Babies still kept being born, needing to be baptized in order to be reconciled with their Heavenly Father. Children still kept needing to be taught, as they kept asking the question, "Why?" And, we still kept paying our taxes.

As the fires of this year have tested everything in our lives, I truly hope that you have been able to see clearly again the solid foundation of God's merciful

Inside this Edition

Grace For a New Vision .. 2 Fr. Wood Homily 4

(Continued on page 5)

Grace For a New Vision

By: Gloria Coyne, Liaison, Archdiocese of Philadelphia



Gloria Coyne

Saying that 2020 was a challenging year is an understatement. It seemed like overnight, we had left the world as we knew it to move into one of uncertainty, fear, and panic. But that's not the end of the story ... we needed to re-focus on what is really important in this life: our relationship with God and how we show love to our families and neighbors. *"Jesus 2020: Empowered by the Spirit"* fulfilled this need for re-focusing.

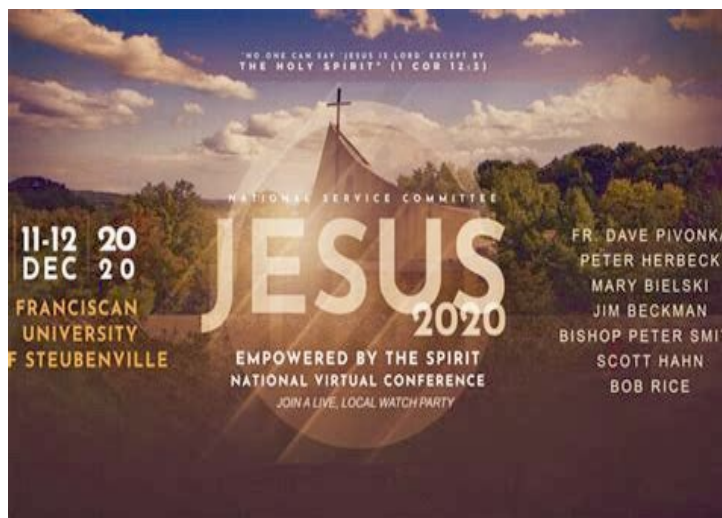
Yes, God poured out grace for a new vision through the 2020 National Catholic Charismatic Virtual Conference. This event gave us a time to praise God, to reflect, and to empower and motivate ourselves to bring the Good News to a world searching for meaning and hungering for the Gospel.

Our ADL conference representative, Deacon Chuck Matzker, has related how the Planning Committee had to work with ever-changing situations, including changing the location, the date, the speakers, the format, and the schedule — just to mention a few. It also went from on-site participation to hybrid then to virtual. Through it all, we could see the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us through new challenges and a new relationship with Pentecost Today, USA and Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Along with Deacon Chuck, an ADL Steering Committee member, the ADL was well represented by Jim Beckman—a keynote speaker—and Fr. Anthony Ouellette, ADL Chair—a workshop speaker.

Jim was among the main speakers who each presented a video on an aspect of Jesus. And Fr. Anthony gave one of the seven workshop videos that presented a different element of the threefold mission of CHARIS and of the newly-formed Pentecost Today, USA: "Bring, Build, Serve."

Each of these videos is not only an opportunity for individual reflection, but an excellent basis for a teaching for prayer groups or Days of Renewal for your Archdiocese.



Flyer for the Jesus 2020 Conference

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, led off Friday evening with the central theme of "Jesus." He spoke about how Jesus took on flesh and how he had "a face like us." He talked about intimacy with Jesus, about coming to Him and discovering Him — the Jesus who will heal me, save me and redeem me.



Fr. Dave Pivonka, President, Franciscan University of Steubenville

(Continued on page 3)

Grace For a New Vision

(Continued from page 2)

We began Saturday with Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. How pleased Our Lady must have been to see us adoring and worshiping her Son. Fr. Dave was the principal celebrant and homilist. In his homily he explored how we as humans have trouble with obedience. In contrast, he said, Our Blessed Mother was profoundly obedient to God's will.

Blessings flow from imitating Mary's obedience, as Fr. Dave illustrated by recounting a COVID-19 related challenge that Franciscan University faced. During the pandemic the university struggled with how to handle incoming students. After prayer, they felt they should offer free tuition for the fall semester to the incoming freshmen. Obedience brought them great blessings as this offer attracted the largest freshman class in the school's history. Then, the school held a livestreamed prayer event, *"Night of Hope,"* which included a fund-raising effort to offset the cost of the free tuition. It raised triple the amount of their goal! The bottom line:

Obedience brings great blessings, whether for a ministry or an individual.

After the Mass, Saturday's first keynote combined two speakers.

Peter Herbeck taught on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, "which leads us to radical conversion and new life in Charismatic power and gifts, (enabling us) to move in the gifts and graces, and to follow the promptings of the Lord to extend His Kingdom."

Mary Bielski was a dynamic speaker continuing the focus on why we are here "for such a time as this." She spoke about having the courage "to stand" in these difficult times. She also reinforced the hopeful message that, yes, Jesus sees us exactly where we are and that the "God of the Universe calls you by name in your brokenness, (in) your room, and in Covid" and wants us to open our hearts to Him.

Prophecy from the "Jesus 2020" Conference

My children, I know the heavy burdens that you carry. And these are burdens that are really not meant for you to carry. For I am the Lord and the power that I have in my Holy Spirit is much stronger than anything that you will ever encounter in your lifetime. For I am God alone. This time is an opportunity for you to experience me in a deeper way, deeper than ever before. For I am God alone and the time is now to grow nearer to me, and to see me move in a way like never before. Come and live in me. Make a way for me to come within you, to possess you. I love you more deeply than you can ever imagine. And you will live that life, the life I have for you from the very beginning for a lifetime. My Spirit is calling you to come.

Following them, we enjoyed the great privilege of having Bishop Peter Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and a representative of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life on the CHARIS leadership team.

He reported that from its early days in 1967, Catholic Charismatic Renewal has impacted well over 120 million Catholics worldwide. He said that it is not a "movement" but—in a term first popularized under the leadership of Pope St. Paul VI — a "current of grace."

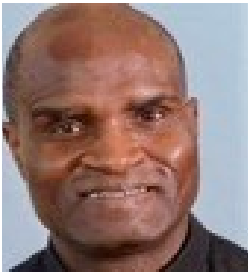
Bishop Peter spoke about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and how it transforms people's lives, stirring up desires for community, for unity with other Christians, for sharing the Gospel, and for serving the needy.

He then explained CHARIS. He recounted how in 2019, on the Feast of Pentecost in Rome, Pope Francis laid out the CHARIS initiative's concept, its purpose and mission. He explained the international structure of CHARIS and suggested visiting

(Continued on page 6)

Conquer (Yourself) Overwhelmingly through Christ

By: Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood



Fr. Chuck Wood

Brothers and sisters:

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.*

Romans 8:35, 37

The rousing declaration above, “... we conquer overwhelmingly,” is likely more familiar to us as, “... we are more than conquerors.”

This fresh wording is from the official translation for English-language Masses in the U.S. To expand on this fresh expression of a well-known phrase, I’m going to tell you a trashy story. But first let’s explore what it might mean to “just” conquer or to be “just” a conqueror.

In this passage, St. Paul lists externals such as the “distress, or persecution... or peril.” Let’s apply his exhortation to our internal battles against sin, temptations, shortcomings and weaknesses. Though personal victories in these areas boost our freedom to advance God’s will in the world around us.

At the risk of stating the obvious, to conquer personal wrongdoing is to stop doing it. Or with sins of omission, to start doing whatever we’ve been neglecting.

But one way to conquer overwhelmingly, to be more than a conqueror, is to follow a principle for boosting spiritual freedom which people particularly associate with St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is “Agere contra,” a Latin phrase meaning “to act against.”

St. Ignatius was certainly not the first person to come up with this tactic. But it’s one of the principles of spiritual battle he’s well known for. It directs us to combat our temptations, sinful tendencies, and weaknesses not only by not giving in to them, but by deliberately doing opposite things.

To illustrate this tactic, here’s the trashy story I promised you. Well strictly speaking it’s about recycling and refundables, not trash. And it’s true.

It involves a middle-class man who harbored judgmental, head-shaking, eye-rolling resentment toward certain people lower on the socioeconomic ladder. Specifically, people who, as he saw it, seem to hover in the shadows and swoop through neighborhoods scrounging for refundable bottles and cans as soon as homeowners put out their trash and recycling.

Thinking about “those people,” this guy pictured them as grungy homeless derelicts who likely spent the refund money on drugs and liquor, sponging off folks like him who’d actually paid the bottle-and-can deposits and did the work of putting the trash and recycling out every week.

A Christian, he pictured himself as fair-minded, not prejudiced or guilty of rash judgement and of bigotry based on class distinctions. But all those supposed virtues went right out the window when he, well, looked out the kitchen window and saw “those people.”

Deep down, he came to recognize his thoughts toward the “refundable collectors” as prejudiced. He said to himself, “I shouldn’t feel this way.” But he kept on feeling it anyway.

One day, he lost his wallet. He looked everywhere he could imagine. The next day, two strangers came to his house. One of them said, “We dumped stuff from your recycling bin yesterday. And when we got home and sorted, we found your wallet. Here it is.”

Its contents were intact. No fraudulent credit card purchases occurred. These folks had integrity. They’re just trying to make ends meet. They probably figure, “If people with more comfortable lives don’t bother returning the refundables, why should the refund go to waste?”

(Continued on page 5)

The Chair's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

love. As we move forward as ADL, I hope that we too will move forward with great vision and clarity. The upcoming convocation will reflect on the fundamental characteristic of the Liaison as a “Bridge Builder.” That focus, the Steering Committee hopes, will help us recognize the role we have of bringing people and groups together in reconciliation and the Holy Spirit.

Pleased be assured of my prayers for you and yours as we enter into a new year together.

+m Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette

Fr. Anthony Ouellette is the Chair, ADL Steering Committee and the Ecclesial Assistant to the Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS. He is Pastor of All Saints Catholic Parish, Kansas City, KS.



Love!

Conquer (Yourself) Overwhelmingly through Christ

(Continued from page 4)

After that encounter, whenever angry judgmental attitudes toward folks sorting through other people's trash and recycling rise up in him, he combats it, rejects it. With that rejection, he conquers his uncharitable mental sin against the dignity of every person.

But recently, the Lord prodded him to conquer it overwhelmingly in a deceptively small way. See, now when he takes the recycling out, he sorts the refundables and puts them on one side of the bin so it's easier for people to take them.

Yes, that may seem inconsequential. But for this man, a softened heart is the godly consequence of aiding people he used to dislike as they pursue an action he used to disapprove. He's not just stopping a bad attitude, but doing the opposite of what that attitude would tempt him to think and do.

To sort through our thoughts, attitudes, and actions toward people who differ from us, let's ask God's

help. He might swoop through our hearts and minds, cleansing them like he cleansed the Temple. And he'll likely assign us the chore of taking out our own trash, including sins against charity and justice. He'll do that because he loves us.

And in him who loves us, we conquer — and overwhelmingly conquer — ourselves. That victory on the personal level boosts our spiritual freedom to serve God in his battle to overwhelmingly conquer blights like bigotry and prejudice at all levels.

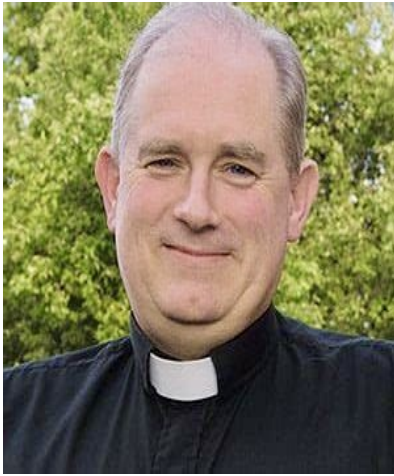
Note: Scripture excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. All rights reserved.

Fr. Chuck Wood is ADL Newsletter editor and CCR Liaison for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. He pastors St. Wenceslaus Church in Scappoose, 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 and was ordained to the priesthood.

Grace For a New Vision

(Continued from page 3)

www.charis.international.org for more detailed information about it.



*Auxillary Bishop Peter Smith,
Archdiocese of Portland, OR*

Bishop Smith went on to discuss how Pentecost Today USA will implement the vision of CHARIS with our theme of “Bring, Build, Serve.” That is, our commitment is to **Bring** Baptism of the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, to **Build** unity in the Body of Christ within Catholicism as well as with our brothers and sisters in other expres-

sions of Christianity, and to **Serve** those who are physically and spiritually poor. (I highly recommend that liaisons present Bishop Smith’s short video to your Arch/Bishop. It is well done and should help answer questions he might have about this new initiative from Pope Francis and how it can positively impact an archdiocese or diocese.)

After Bishop Smith, Dr. Scott Hahn gave a powerful testimony. He hasn’t had the opportunity to share very often about his journey from a “life of crime” to metanoia and how the “sovereign grace and power of the Holy Spirit” led to his radical transformation as he learned to grow in holiness.

Saturday afternoon, online participants took part in panel discussions with Dr. Hahn and other workshop leaders. During breaks, participants could watch 15-minute workshops ranging from the “History of Renewal” to “Choosing Love and Unity in a Time of Division” to “Drawing Closer to God in Serving the Poor.” You can view all workshops at www.PentecostTodayUSA.org/jesus-2020/.

ADL Chair Fr. Anthony Ouellette gave a workshop on “Jesus the Good Shepherd: Hierarchical Support of the Renewal.” He related how Arch/dioceses have various leadership structures in the Renewal, such as covenant communities, different ethnic realities, etc. At

times, he admitted, these entities seem to compete, and in an effort to preserve our particular entity’s existence, we forget our mission. Countering these attitudes, he said, CHARIS calls us to work more closely with others and see how this will benefit our Arch/diocese.

Fr. Anthony said a liaison “should be a bridge-builder.” To that end, he invited liaisons to ask ourselves, “How can we respond, adapt, and collaborate, so that the gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit might be given to the rest of the Church?”



Fr. Anthony Ouellette, Chair, ADL

Another conference highlight was Unbound Ministry’s virtual prayer teams from around the world. Also, throughout the conference, Bob Rice provided anointed and powerful Praise and Worship music. Plus, a Chat Line provided a truly interactive opportunity to comment on a speaker or ask a question. I also gladly mention the professionalism of Steubenville’s entire technology staff. They quickly resolved any issues, providing online attendees a very positive experience.

We had a very special moment when we honored Walter and Clare Matthews for their years of service to NSC-Chariscenter and to the Renewal at large. At that session we also officially launched Pentecost Today USA and introduced our new director, Alicia Hartle. All joined in as we prayed for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and anointing with her new responsibilities.

The final session with Jim Beckman had the theme, “There’s More!” While this year was difficult, and we may be exhausted and tired and weary, God isn’t finished with us yet. He shakes the very foundations of our lives individually and in the Church, Jim said.

“We can’t get to the real power that the Lord has for us until we come to the end of the illusion we actually have any power of our own,” he explained, continuing, it’s “exactly when we are empty that God can really show up.”

(Continued on page 7)

Grace For a New Vision

(Continued from page 6)

He pointed out the unique time in the Church and that “bishops, pastors, priests, and lay leaders ... are trying to renew parish life without the Holy Spirit, but it just won’t happen.” He called the Holy Spirit the critical agent in this time, then led us into a powerful moment of inviting the Holy Spirit to give us “more!”

We ended with Eucharistic Adoration focusing on Jesus as the center of our life. During difficult and challenging times, we bring our hope and joy in the Kingship of Our Lord to our families, friends, and everyone we meet.

Steubenville Conferences and Renewal Ministries followed this beautiful day with a livestreamed “Advent Night of Hope” for prayer, worship, and empowerment

Prophecy from the “Jesus 2020” Conference

Do you fully understand what I am asking of you? Are you willing to give all that will be required? I have come to cast a fire upon the earth. Oh, how I wish it were already ablaze. You can see how the world is falling apart in ruins all around you. Do not be dismayed or discouraged, do not loose heart, I have heard your cries from heaven, and I am coming. But my coming will be in you and through you. My coming will be like a raging fire that will strip away all impurity and false idols. You will need determination and generosity to stay in this movement with me. You will need my grace to hold you up because everything you have relied on before for stability and strength will be taken away. Search for me, draw near to me. I have searched for you and I will draw near to you when you draw near to me.

It is a new day, a new season, I am coming in power, I am coming with fire, I am coming to renew, I am coming to heal, I am coming to deliver and liberate and free souls. You think yourself small and insignificant but my power in you and through you will be manifold and uncontainable. Come to me with all your heart, hold nothing back from me. To the extent that you surrender all to me you will be amazed at what I can and will do. Prepare yourself for growth, prepare yourself for wonders, enlarge your tent, make more room. Do not compromise the truth in any way, hold fast to all that I have shown you. Prepare yourself to be amazed for I am coming.

as 2020 drew to an end and we looked forward to beginning again in a New Year.

If you missed it you could still have an opportunity to view the conference sessions, along with all the workshops, at www.PentecostTodayUSA.org/jesus-2020/.

This conference was, in actuality, the realization of the CHARIS objective of collaboration among various streams of Renewal, with Franciscan University, Pentecost Today USA, and Unbound Prayer Ministries serving cooperatively.

In these changing times, we need to keep up with the Holy Spirit and learn how to pivot and follow His

lead. The resulting fruits of our endeavors will be glorious!

Gloria Coyne has been involved with Charismatic Renewal since 1997. She is the Diocesan Liaison for English speaking streams of Renewal for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She has served as the Administrator for the World Meeting of Families International Charismatic Event, and was on the planning committee for the Jubilee Celebration in Pittsburgh. Nationally, she has served on the NSC council for 10 years and was elected to the Board of Pentecost Today USA. Her current focus is enhancing unity with the hierarchy, with our Christian brothers and sisters and within the Renewal itself. Additionally, she was elected to the Steering Committee of the ADL.



Association of Diocesan Liaisons

Officers: Fr. Anthony Ouellette Chair
Terry Riggins Secretary
Dcn. Charles Matzler At Large Member
Gloria Coyne At Large Member
Chuck Hornsby At Large Member
Jane Guenther At Large Member

Address: 16 S. Iowa Street
Kansas City, KS 66103

Phone: (913) 671-9233

E-mail: frouellette@gmail.com

Web: www.AssociationOfDiocesanLiaisons.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ADLliaison

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AssociationOfDiocesanLiaisons

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

