

Association of Diocesan Liaisons Newsletter

Spring and
Summer 2020

The Chair's Corner

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



Fr. Ouellette

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Kansas City. Well, we survived moving our 2020 Convocation from Kansas City to the World Wide Web. With all the normal bumps along the way—

new technology for registration and for the convocation itself—we successfully met and were able to spend time together in prayer, learning, and fellowship. Being able to meet virtually has opened up the possibility of other virtual meetings throughout the year, simply to continue praying together and to fellowship nationally and perhaps regionally. Virtual meetings have great potential for growing the active participation of liaisons throughout the US and Canada. Honestly, I'm confident this new virtual dimension can only help stir up greater interest in liaisons' personal participation in our annual convocation and joint NSC/ADL conferences.

Our annual financial report will be done by June 30, 2020. It appears we will finish the year in the black for the first time I can remember. We can only attribute this to increased dues payments and to the Steering Committee's successful money-saving initia-



Photograph of the Virtual ADL Convocation 2020.

tives. “Thank you,” to everyone who helped in these efforts to stabilize our finances.

Our new US National Service of Communion is progressing; a recent CHARIS document gave greater

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Come Holy Spirit!

By: **Sandy Seidel, Co-Liaison, Diocese of San Angelo, TX**



Sandy Seidel

As I write this article, the ninth week of Shelter-in-Place where I live begins. It gives us much to ponder: where we have been, where we are, where we are going.

Where We Have Been

This time last year, the Service Committee for the Charismatic Renewal in the San Angelo Diocese was determining the number of prayer groups here. This was not easy, as our diocese encompasses 37,433 square miles and is divided into three deaneries which all have English-speaking and Spanish-speaking prayer groups. One motivation for counting groups was our 2019 Diocesan Charismatic conference in June. This annual conference is in San Angelo, TX with the local Heart of Mercy prayer group as sponsor. We invited prayer groups from the different deaneries to participate, and it was well attended.

For several years, San Angelo Bishop Michael Sis has been a presenter, as well as our chaplain, Fr. Albert Ezeanya, and Fr. Ed Wade, a member of the Compan-



Life in the Spirit Seminar, Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo, TX

ions of the Cross. The conference is always a spiritual boost for the prayer groups, who receive encouragement to use the gifts of the Spirit for building up the community. To encourage growth and prayer after the conferences, we pick themes that we hope can inspire teachings all year; last year's theme was "Come, Holy

Spirit." (Find information about our conferences at www.catholiccharismatic.com.)

Our community also uses the gifts in ministries outside of prayer groups. For instance, our Unbound team had just finished a weekend seminar before the pandemic became apparent.



Fr. Albert Ezeanya and Participants at the Diocesan Conference, San Angelo, TX

In addition to our conferences, we have been blessed with good teaching over the course of diocesan participation in the Renewal since its beginnings fifty years ago, with many testimonies of healing and lives changed and/or restored. My husband and I have been baptized in the Holy Spirit for thirty years. We have been liaisons to Bishop Mike Sis and his predecessor Bishop Michael Pfeifer, who received the Baptism in the Spirit when Patti Mansfield prayed over him. Both bishops have been cheerful supporters of the Renewal.

Where We Are

Throughout the pandemic, we've been striving to stay faithful to the calling and the spirit of the Charismatic Renewal, but routines have changed. Normally, we'd have two Life in the Spirit seminars yearly in the deaneries. Our first one would have been in February or March, but we had to cancel.

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The Chair's Corner

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guidelines for its creation and formation. This new entity's name is *CHARIS National Service of Communion USA of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal*.

We will call it "CNSC," which should be clear enough to prevent confusing it with the NSC or other US Charismatic entities. Three of your ADL Steering Committee members, Chuck Hornsby, Jane Guenther, and myself, have been chosen or elected to serve for three years on the CNSC. Its members elected Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia of New York as Coordinator. With many years as Planning Committee Facilitator for the Gathering of Charismatic Leadership meetings, he will provide great continuity as the CNSC moves forward, broadening its engagement.

I understand that, as of now, Msgr. Malagrecia is to make a personal presentation on the CNSC at the US Bishop's upcoming Baltimore meeting. This could only be an ADL "win-win," as, hopefully, it inspires bishops to appoint new liaisons to help them in this mission. We as ADL must be ready with all the resources we can muster to support our bishops in making this happen.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all during these days of national uncertainty. God bless.

+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.

Come Holy Spirit!

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"New Normal" is, along with many domestic shifts, prayer group interaction is limited to phone calls, emails, text, and Zoom. Prayer meetings are virtual, and prayer group members pray for each other via Facetime and/or Zoom. Thank God for the technology we have today! It definitely is not the same as gathering in person, but as this year's Convocation showed us, you cannot limit the Holy Spirit.

As I write, we are still waiting to see how we'll handle our June Conference. For me personally, "keeping the fire burning" during these troubling times has been a stretch as a liaison and prayer group leader. But then I think of what a family in the prayer group said when I asked, "How has this pandemic affected your relationship with God?"

Joseph, age 14

"The pandemic has brought me closer to God. It has given me more [time] to pray for the people in the hospital and those that are dying. It has made my faith stronger."

Philip, age 11

"It makes me think about different ways to pray to him and what to ask for. To pray about things I have not thought about before. It also makes me talk to him differently for the needs of others."

Carl and Amy, Parents

"This time has created an even deeper longing and appreciation for the Sacraments and community. We have grown in gratitude for our family and our time together at home. We have been moved to speak boldly and encouragingly to others about leaning into faith in God and not fear."

Where We Are Going

Where are we going? Only God knows for sure. But from all indications, I would quote St. Catherine of Siena: "All the way to heaven is heaven!" May God set us ablaze for many more years to come.

Sandy Seidel is Co-Liaison, with her husband, Deacon Daniel Seidel, for the Diocese of San Angelo, TX. She is also a mother and grandmother who strives "to build the Kingdom through prayer groups, the diocesan CCR Service Committee, ADL membership, and through retreat ministry and Life in the Spirit Seminars."

The Lord Truly Guarded My Coming and My Going (Part Two)

By: Fr. Charles “Chuck” Wood



Fr. Chuck Wood

A Personal Testimony “Disguised” as a Homily

Note: At the parish I pastor, I gave a testimony after returning from a providential round trip. The testimony qualified as a homily since it illustrated a verse in the Responsorial Psalm, namely, “The Lord will guard your coming and going ...” (Ps 121:8). This second part of my adaptation of that homily shows what almost sabotaged my coming back.

Last year I felt joy in God’s providence during travels for a Minnesota wedding (See the “going” story in the Fall 2019 Newsletter). But that joy quickly faced two tests. Key to the positive outcome were several abnormal choices and circumstances, which I didn’t initially recognize as God at work.

First, minimizing costs for the wedding couple, I got discounts using different airlines for going and returning; I don’t normally use either airline. Second, the return airline being “no-frills,” I took only a carry-on without the “personal item” briefcase I normally take. Third, the Friday before the wedding I went to the airport earlier in advance of departure than normal because another household member had a pre-dawn flight before mine. Fourth, having more time so early, I went against my norm and ate breakfast at an airport restaurant. Fifth, pitying a desperate-sounding gate agent (and after removing books and valuables), I checked my bag at the gate, which I don’t normally do.

Fast-forward to Saturday, after I’d driven all over in a car borrowed from the Minnesota household of the religious community I’m in. At the wedding reception, fully visible to the outdoors through unlocked glass doors, the hall had coat racks in an open area ... where I hung my coat ... with a pocket containing my wallet because I don’t keep it in my back pocket due to spine alignment issues.

So, yes, the first test started when I went back to my coat, and my wallet was missing. I assured myself I forgot to bring it when I drove to the wedding that morn-

ing. A Minnesota household member drove me back to the residence; my wallet wasn’t there. I called the rehearsal dinner location; my wallet wasn’t there.

What’s worse than losing your wallet or having it stolen? Having it happen out of town, depriving you of ID for airport security going home. But about that, I had no worries. See (I intentionally left this out until now), whimsical laziness (I thought) prodded me to include my passport when I packed. That’s not my norm for domestic travel but out-of-the-blue while packing, I felt like avoiding the “bother” of removing my driver’s license from my wallet at the TSA checkpoint.

Back to the guest room with my wallet still missing: I felt blessed facing this test. I thought, “Maybe that wasn’t whimsical laziness while I packed; maybe it was the Holy Spirit. God knew this would happen but stopped something worse by inspiring the passport idea.”

Then the test escalated ... I couldn’t find my passport! Had I put it in my coat with my wallet after taking my valuables out of my carry-on bag before checking it because I pitied that gate agent? If so, I feared someone had stolen wallet and passport at the reception; can you say, “Identity Theft?”

It was Saturday night, so I couldn’t call the two parishes where the wedding and the reception had been. I asked God to help me sleep. He did. Sunday, I called the parishes. Did they have my wallet? They didn’t. I reviewed my trip. That airport breakfast! I had my wallet when I paid! Finding the receipt, I called the restaurant. The employee found nothing but said they would’ve transferred Friday’s lost items to Portland Airport Lost & Found, which doesn’t take calls on Sunday. The time-zone difference made it dicey to have to wait until they’d take calls Monday morning, but what could I do?

Sometime Sunday someone from my house texted to confirm my Monday arrival time. I confirmed, adding, “Might be moot: My wallet’s missing. I brought my passport, but it’s missing too.” He texted back saying they’d pray. Within minutes I found the passport in a pocket I’d overlooked!

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Getting To Know Young Adults and Collaborating with Them in Faith

By: Jackie Morgan, Associate Liaison, Archdiocese of Portland



Jackie Morgan

The pandemic has brought change to our mode of operations. I think God wants us to branch out, and this global challenge is a way of making us do it. For example, many are meeting via video and audio conferencing. Even our Masses are live-streamed. Christians will not be put down. One instance of rising to this challenge: For the 2020 ADL Annual Convocation we held a video conference.

Our subject was how to attract youth and young adults. Each generation thinks differently, and it's important to know how to resonate with the age group you're interested in. Aiming at gaining that "know how," we made encouraging progress thanks to our presenter, Jim Beckman. Jim is Executive Director, Evangelization and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He's been in diocesan and parish ministry, evangelization and leadership development for years. He is in his second term on the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR).

practical example, consider ads and flyers with lots of pictures rather than lots of text.

People in these generations want the following: 1) to belong; 2) an experience before an explanation; 3) a "guide on the side" over a "sage on the stage"; 4) things to be fun; 5) to not be used—so don't initially give them jobs to do; and 6) transformation—so you must plan long-term for them.

They are open to faith; that's important. They need an encounter and relationship with Jesus. They need the truth. We need to do the following: 1) meet them where they're at. Remember, they are very technology-minded, so you'll find them on social-networking apps



Jim Beckman

like Snapchat or Whisper. You won't find them on Facebook or, normally, browsing websites; 2) reconnect them with the story—Scripture; 3) engage them in relationship; 4) give them purpose and meaning; 5) mentor them; and 6) accompany them.

When you are trying to attract young adults, don't use the same

Prophecy from the ADL Convocation — 2020

The evil that you cannot see in this time, is worse than the evil you can see. The good that you can't see in this time is better than the good that you can see. I call you to Pray for the gift of discernment that you might see more than you see, and I call you to use the particular gifts I have given you. I call intercessors to intercede, the warriors to fight, the lovers to love, the sacrificers to sacrifice. Prayer, fasting, warfare, love; these are the weapons you have always been given. Use them in the measure I have given them to you, use them in the uniqueness I have given to you, says the Lord.

He helpfully summarized research on today's youth and young adults. For instance, Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996/97) as well as Generation Z (born after 1997), have been accommodated and enabled their whole lives. Note: Some studies end Gen Z in 2010 or 2012. They are out-of-the-box thinkers, technologically advanced, highly motivated for service and community/group activities.

And they have really short attention spans.

Estimates of that span? From about twelve seconds for Millennials to eight, for Gen Z. So capture their attention that quickly if you want longer interaction. As a

old terms, phrases, jargon. For example, don't identify the initial step as a Life in the Spirit (LIS) seminar aimed at bringing people into the CCR. You see, most people in this age group think being charismatic is for older people and doesn't relate to them. That doesn't mean you can't put on an LIS. Just call it something else. And give it a different "look" than what we went through years ago.

Several millennials attended the end of the evening session, as panelists to answer our questions. Mostly,

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

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Monday, I called Portland Airport Lost & Found as early as possible. The staff person checked and came back with a happy “fist-pumping” voice saying, “We have it ... with money in a security bag, so I guess nothing was taken!” I could get it when I arrived that evening. It was cause to celebrate ... and to strengthen me for the second test.

Condensed narrative of second test: Sunday night, a notion prompted me to suggest going to the airport on Monday much earlier before my departure than we’ve normally done for decades-worth of flights from there. At the airport, the long, slow line wasn’t worrying; I had lots of time. Then, past security, I didn’t see my flight on the departure board at all, though later flights showed. Then it hit me. Between two and three miles from this main terminal, the airport has another one for second-tier airlines ... like the one I was flying

for the first time from there; I’d never had to think about that terminal or about checking airport signage, and my boarding pass gave no clue.

Without a car, the trip between terminals—including travel between two Public Transit stations—takes longer than driving from my religious community’s residence to the airport. At Terminal 2, of course, I had to go through security again. I reached my gate uncomfortably close to the scheduled departure, but boarding had just started. The flight was delayed without my knowing it. Still I probably would have missed it if not for that prompting to go unusually early.

Praise the Lord who truly guarded my coming (back) and my going!

Fr. Chuck Wood is Liaison for the English-speaking and Asian-bilingual CCR in the Archdiocese of Portland, OR; ADL Newsletter Editor; a member of the Brotherhood of the People of Praise; and pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish, Scapoose, OR.

Getting To Know Young Adults and Collaborating with Them in Faith

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they echoed Jim Beckman’s message, even though they hadn’t heard him.

They were very happy we sought them out. They want to be part of the Renewal and want a real relationship with the Holy Spirit and with us. They want to be heard and listened to and yet want to do things their way. They don’t identify with the term “Charismatic” but know they are. They want consistency: A constant building-up by events, prayer groups and community. They need goals. So, a prayer group is a good foundation, where they’d like to learn new things and practice them in that safe environment, but then take them out to the Church and try them publicly.

One panelist gave these suggestions: 1) Go to a bar; 2) Listen to all of us and to our stories; 3) Be personally vulnerable and real with us; 4) Unite with our causes.

In other words, go to them. Listen to them, really listen, then listen some more. Share your story when they’re done with theirs. Agree with their causes in so far as they are scriptural and in line with Church teach-

ing. Where their causes aren’t, eventually move them to the truth. For example, a good number of the younger generations have no problem with the LGBTQ+ philosophy. So that would be something to work on.

The advice, “Go to a bar” suggests they like the Theology on Tap approach, which according to the official website of that movement, involves “events held in a restaurant, coffeehouse, even in a bar—places where young adults already are comfortable and feel welcome. These events feature an engaging speaker presenting a theological topic, time for discussion, faith sharing, and community building.”¹ That’s one instance of how this generation thinks out of the box. So be ready for their imagination. Guide them, love them—and stand back!

¹ Theology on Tap at: <https://renewtot.org/en/how-it-works/>

Jackie Morgan is the Associate Liaison to Fr. Chuck Wood in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. She is the Chairperson of the Western Oregon Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team and a Prayer Group Leader at St Anne’s Church. She is married and has two children and two grandchildren.



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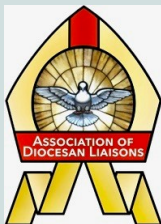
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