

Catholic
Charismatic
Renewal

Atlantic Service
Committee



Atlantic Renewal

Newsletter—May 2021

www.betweenthehearts.ca

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To submit newsletter articles or comments:

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Editors Corner

By Ethel Cunningham

This past year has brought many challenges and changes, leaving many of us fearful of things to come. As Dave pointed out in the February issue of the ASC Newsletter, "Let us not fear what has been shaken...let us continue to embrace hope and freedom that comes from an ancient promise, now fulfilled, in Christ."

Challenging times are times of opportunity. We are being called to set aside all fear, anxiety and doubt, and to embrace life with hope, courage, and belief in God's divine intervention.

Remember the story of the paralytic man, (Luke 17-26) and how the faith of his friends with their 'creative courage' won God's favor. We too, as God's disciples, must be ready to cooperate fully with God's will in being role models during times

of trial and transition.

We have just celebrated the Resurrection of the Son of God; Jesus Christ in all His majesty and power on Easter Sunday. A reason to be praising and dancing. A reason to accept His love, compassion, and forgiveness. It brings gratitude for His fulfilled promise of the Holy Spirit.

Let's open our doors and windows shouting out loud, "He is risen! Glory be to God!"

It is a NEW day! A NEW time to look to the small joys, the small moments, a glorious morning, a sunny day. It is a time to be with children and grand-children; to take a walk, make a phone call instead of texting; to do something for someone else, and to laugh. Perhaps, to just sit in silence with God; listen, receive, and believe.

Fear and doubt never comes from the Lord and must always be immediately resisted and rejected. We allow distractions, meaningless conversation, and media to cloud our minds, our decisions, and our actions. It is within us to choose to remain (or not) in the Lord. Ask yourself: "Do I exercise daily patience and offer hope? Do I take care not to spread panic, but to share responsibly? Do I seek and speak truth?"

Where is our trust? Where is our faith? Where is our gratitude?

I encourage you to not "fear the heat" with the words from Jeremiah 17:7-8.



"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Subtle Steppingstones *Elizabeth MacDonnell*

As I sat attending Mass one Thursday morning, I brought before the Lord my invitation to write this article. I asked him to bring to mind my earliest memories of the Renewal as I felt that might be a way to begin the process of writing it. I didn't get an answer as quickly as I'd like, so I started to try to recall some memories anyway. While trying to do so, a small whisper breezed past my ear saying, "You are a child of the renewal." Huh? I thought; but then it hit me!

Do you remember the first time you took a step? Or the first time you ate mashed sweet potatoes and threw them on the floor? Not likely, but we know these normal childhood steppingstones happened whether we remember them or not. They teach us day by day, from a young age to adulthood, to be who we are called to be. I realized that my experience in the renewal was a similar process.

As I was growing up, my parents were (and still are) very involved in the renewal, so by default, myself and my siblings were also. My parents tell a story of one sibling being bounced around on the stage during praise and worship. Another story of, supposedly, sitting quietly and colouring in the side aisles of the auditorium during talks (as a mother of a 3-year-old I have my suspicion of not so quiet...) Early in our childhood, before we understood what was happening, we were exposed to what a life led in the Spirit, and a relationship with the Lord, could look like. I realized that these distant memories and experiences of conferences and gatherings were the subtle steppingstones toward my adult faith and choosing it for myself.

I know that my faith in the Lord has grown gradually and progressively through attending Life in the Spirit Seminars, Youth Group Gatherings, Charismatic Conferences, Steubenville Conferences and Raising Up an Army Retreats. They were tonnes of fun, and I always came home energized to walk (or run) with the Lord, but it wasn't until I graduated High School that I found myself challenged in the decision to live my faith amid more difficult situations. Losing a large circle of Christian Catholic friends, older siblings and mentors who moved away, and being too old for most of the conferences I had attended for years all caused difficulty in continuing my growth into adulthood. Graciously, the Lord continued to pursue me like the good



and dear friend He is asking, "Want to go for a walk?"

These walks were both literal, with my feet moving alongside the roadway in a nearby neighbourhood, and figurative, while sitting on my bed in prayer. Both powerful in their circumstances. My faith has deep roots in tradition, spirit led prayers and an openness to the Lord's will in my life, which enabled me to continue these walks with the Lord and make decisions based on my relationship with Him.

One of these walks led me to an application and acceptance into NET Ministries of Canada and another led me to my husband of 8 years. At times, my walk with the Lord leads me down a long dim alley of sorrow and heartbreak, but each walk finishes with the Lord saying, "Thank you for trusting me to guide you on this walk."

I am excited to hear that the ASC is initiating an event (JAM) for young adults, like myself, who are searching for new experiences in faith and continued conversations while walking with the Lord. Events like these are part of the subtle growth we are called to and are opportunities to receive deeper understanding of God's call for us.

As I continue my journey through life with the unknowns of the next day, or even the next hour, I am reminded of that image of being a child of the renewal. The childlike process of growing in faith and trusting in our Heavenly Father; slowly discovering where each steppingstone and life experience will take me; and subtly learning that, ultimately, He knows all, is enough for me.

Watchers Of The Dawn

Joyce White

When I had moved back to Prince Edward Island, I was so happy to get involved with the Charismatic Renewal. At that time there was a man in Amherst who had a significant impact on me. This man was Deacon Rick Hartnett. Deacon Rick was instrumental in the birth of the ASC and the Between the Hearts Renewal Centre. As he contemplated the future of the Renewal Centre, Rick received a vision of youth filled buses converging on the Centre. Eventually, Raising Up an Army youth rally was born which gathered 150 youth bi-annually. His service and commitment to fulfilling this vision through the ASC and Renewal Centre proved to be commendable. Sadly, Rick has since gone home to our Lord, but he has left a legacy.

As I witnessed the re-building of the Renewal Centre a few years ago, I saw many living stones (volunteers) give of themselves to see the work completed. I was filled with hope and courage at the site of the Holy Spirit at work. But the unfortunate consequence of this re-building was that the Raising Up an Army event had to come to an end. This brought a heavy heart to many.

Today, I am happy to announce that the ASC Executive Committee gave its support to start the process of re-establishing a similar event to be held at the Between the Hearts Renewal Centre once more. I am excited to be part of this rebirth and continuation of Rick's vision.

In the words of St. John Paul II:

“My dear young people only Jesus knows what is in your hearts and your deepest desires. Only He, who has loved you to the end can fulfill your aspirations. His are words of eternal life, words that give meaning to life. No one apart from Christ can give you true happiness. By following the example of Mary, you should know how to give Him your unconditional yes. There is no place in your lives for selfishness or laziness. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that you be “watchers of the dawn.” The lookouts who announce the light of dawn and the new springtime of the Gospel of which the buds can already be seen. Humanity is in urgent need of the witness of free and courageous young people who dare to go against the tide and proclaim with vigour and enthusiasm their personal faith in God, Lord, and Saviour.”

Those of you who remember Raising up an Army will remember them to be extremely fruitful for all who participated. It has been my vision and passion to re-visit this youth ministry and while adding ministry to young adults. There will be two events; Spring and Fall, with separate age groups encompassing both men and women. Spring will cover ages 14 -18 and titled JAM meaning, Jesus and Me. The Fall event will cover ages 19 – 30. The first event will be in the Fall of 2021. More information and event dates TBA as we move forward in our planning.

My hope, and prayer, is that the present pandemic will not interfere with our plans. Please pray for the success of these events. I know Rick is pleading our cause in heaven to see the bus loads of young people he once envisioned. I am driven to do all I can, with the support people behind me, to see it fulfilled. So, bus loads or not, let young people converge on this Renewal Centre to encounter Christ Jesus their friend. Let them become “watchers of the dawn” with courage to proclaim Christ as Lord and Giver of Life.



Upcoming Events:

The ASC has a workshop in place on the theme of Healing. The date has not been confirmed due to the “Atlantic Bubble” still being closed causing delays. Once the regulations and Maritime Border is opened, the Workshop will take place and information will be distributed. Check the ASC website for updates.

The ASC Annual Summer Conference will take place on August 6 and 7th. This year’s Conference will be live streamed once again. The theme is “Gathering the Wheat” taken from Rev. 14:15. “Take your sickle and reap: harvest time has come and the harvest of the earth is ripe.” Our keynote speakers will be Peter, and daughter, Rachael Herbeck from Renewal Ministries. Rachael Herbeck is a youth and young adult leader with Renewal Ministries who will, at this conference, have a message for this age group. She is a dynamic leader who will surely engage the young person in your life. More information will follow soon. Visit our website to check updates.

As mentioned in this issue of the Newsletter, the ASC is working on events to attract the attention of two age groups. Fall of 2021, a plan to gather young adults (19 +) for a weekend of growing deeper in their relationship with Christ Jesus. (Or rediscovering it) Spring of 2022, we call out to youth (14 to 18) to rally them into the fold. (Like our past event “Raising Up An Army”) Details have not yet been finalized, but our website will keep you up to date. It is time to gather the wheat!

The ASC sponsored; “Empowered: Catholic Conference for Men” committee has begun planning for its 3rd Annual Conference in the fall of 2021. It is scheduled for October 1st and 2nd 2021. It will be held at St. Peter Church in Dartmouth, NS. The theme is, “STRENGTH” taken from Judges 6: the story of Gideon as he is told by the angel, “Go in this strength of yours...” It will be live streamed and it is with hope that pandemic regulations will allow a number of men to gather in person as well. Visit their website, empoweredccfm.ca for more information.



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Live Teachings on the Ministry FaceBook Page, the teaching schedule is as follows:

May 6, 2021 at 7pm

May 20, 2021 at 7pm

June 3, 2021 at 7pm

June 17, 2021 at 7pm

You do not need a Face Book account to watch.

<https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartministries>

Between the Hearts Renewal Center



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