

NAN – Building Communal Relationships

This sharing by David Peterman Jr. was presented at a General Community Gathering of the Christian Community of God's Delight on Sunday June 25 at the end of the prayer meeting. It is a review of the North American Network meetings that he and other members of the Community attended in February 2023.

Last month, after a Gathering, I shared with you that one of the blessings of growing up in Community was that we were founded by a very dynamic man, Bobby J. Cavnar who was called upon to witness, share, and be part of the spread of the Charismatic Renewal all over the world. He traveled often and spoke at conferences and developed many relationships. One of the exciting things for many of us was his sharings at the end of prayer meetings following his trips. We all learned from them especially that we were not just a single isolated group in Dallas, but part of a vast Charismatic Renewal happening all over the world. We became connected to it through his sharings and testimonies.

Today I am going to follow Bobbie's example and share about a trip that I took in February with other Community members to attend a meeting of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities. Neil and Cathy Coward, Mike and Sue Wagner, and Alex Maese also attended with Laurie and me. So that you are not confused, when I presented a similar sharing last month, I was covering the ecumenical Charismatic Leaders Fellowship that meets at the same place just prior to the NAN conference.

The objective of my sharing today is to convey the abundant blessings of the Communal Relationships that flow from our participation in NAN and encourage you to take advantage of them. These Communal Relationships are important, not just to the leaders but to all our members who engage.

As a reminder, NAN is an abbreviation for the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities. This organization was formed three years ago after the Holy Father created CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International) as an international non-member service organization to support the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. NAN enables Covenant Communities in North America to support one another as we did within the Catholic Fraternity before CHARIS. More details regarding NAN including access to [newsletters](#), can be found at our NAN website: <https://www.nanccc.org/>.

Because most of the Communities that make up NAN are facing similar challenges we gather and pray about the themes and topics that make up our annual conference. This collaboration happens at a weekend of prayer and discernment amongst the NAN leaders and the weekend and conference planning itself brings the leaders together and develops our relationships.

This year we discerned the conference theme to be Living an Abundant Life in an Apostolic Age. God does not want us to just survive this present age but to thrive. Our priority in

planning the conference was to help leaders within Covenant Communities expand leadership and to prepare a new generation for thriving in this Apostolic Age that we find ourselves in.

A simple way that we can all benefit from NAN and plant seeds of relationships is to read the NAN Newsletters. They are sent out at least twice a year and can be found on the [NAN Website](#) at the [Newsletters tab](#). Sue also prints copies and provides them for a time on the foyer table.

If you are open to traveling, I strongly recommend you consider attending the NAN conference. The conference is usually held the last weekend in February. Please let me know if you are interested in attending next year. I cannot stress enough the value of the sharings and testimonies and the opportunities to develop communal relationships.

Laurie and I recently had the privilege to visit leaders of Glory to God Community in Topeka Kansas. We were both very blessed to get to know the leaders there in a way that was not possible from only attending meetings and conferences together. We experienced great joy drawing closer to this community and their leaders! Visiting NAN communities is another way we can benefit from our association with NAN.

A simple way for everyone in God's Delight to benefit from these communal relationships is to listen to the talks and get to know the presenters. Each conference is recorded and they are available on the [NAN Website](#) at the [2023 Conference tab](#). Prior conference presentations are also available on the same website.

To help facilitate listening to these sharings the details of the 2023 conference are listed below with links.

Thursday evening Karol Sobczyk opened the conference covering [*Living an Abundant Life in an Apostolic Age*](#).

Friday focused on leadership:

- Gordy DeMarais: [*Identifying and Forming New Leaders*](#)
- Mark Wilby: [*Empowering Leaders*](#)
- Bishop Peter Smith: [*Receptive Ecumenism*](#)
- Peter Poppleton: [*Collaborating with Others*](#)
- Joe Loizzo: [*Discipleship & Personal Holiness*](#)
- Jonathan and Sharon Cosper: [*Living Our Covenant Charism Abundantly*](#).

Saturday focused on preparing a new generation for this Apostolic Age:

- Johannes Fichtenbauer: [*Passing the Baton*](#)
- Tod Densmore: [*Balancing Family Life, Community & Outreach*](#)
- Laurie and I: [*Thriving Parents in an Apostolic Age*](#)

There were other sessions and excellent testimonies that you can review on the website:

<https://www.nanccc.org/2023conference>

My hope and prayer is that you hear the passion in my testimony about the value of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities and that you engage in realizing the value and benefit that we all have in our association with this organization!

Thank you and God Bless,
David Peterman