

Sisters and Brothers, each year I send a summary of the North American Network (NAN) conference and usually start with the list of those who attended. This year we were excited to have the largest group ever from CCGD: Bob and Gretchen Montgomery, Jorge and Angelica Munoz, Mike Wagner, Cecilia Briseno, Natlie Richert, Cindy Medina, Laurie, my dad and me.



The 2024 conference was held Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> hosted by Alleluia, our sister community in Augusta, Georgia.

As a reminder NAN is an abbreviation for the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities. This organization was formed four 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/>.

Throughout this letter you can click on the highlighted titles of the talks to watch the videos or go to the [events](#) page of the [NAN](#) website.

The theme of Thursday was *Understanding the Cultural Reality We Face as Charismatic Covenant Communities*. Peter Poppleton's talk on [Essentials for Our Current Time](#) exhorted us to pursue the Holy Spirit so that we can build ourselves into that to which we are called. He reminded us that "The essential things in history begin always with the small, more convinced communities" and to "not look back, there isn't time."

The theme of Friday was *Living Our Charism as Charismatic Covenant Communities* and Mark Gargulinski started us off with a talk entitled [Living Spirit Filled Lives Led by Him](#). Mark exhorted us to live totally surrendered to the Holy Spirit, living every moment with the Spirit in charge. We were encouraged to have a bias toward action when it comes to using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to be bold in using His Gifts as our witness. After encouraging us to have a

hunger for more Gifts we prayed for an impartation of Gifts upon each Community represented.

Our next talk was by Dan Almeter, a leader in the Alleluia Community, who testified on [The Heart of Covenant Community](#). He explained that covenant community is about enabling the experience of the unconditional love of God. It is a place where healing and repentance are a normal way of life. Community is meant to be transformational where we pass on God's love to all who come to us.

Our final talk on Friday was given by Deacon Johannes Fichtenbauer, who presented [The Biblical Call to Community](#). Johannes explained in detail why we live in a community and the foundational elements of living in a community.

The theme of Saturday was *Widening our Tent Pegs as Charismatic Covenant Communities* and Dr. John Gresham began with a talk entitled [Receptive Ecumenism as a Path to Welcome and Receive Others](#). John explained receptive ecumenism and how its principles can be applied to all domains of us being the One Body of Christ. We were exhorted to see the gifts in others who are not like us before we see their needs or differences.

Mark Wilby was the second speaker Saturday who spoke on being [Communities that are Outwardly Focused](#). Mark shared how we need each other to go deeper with our Lord Jesus and that this is how we achieve intimacy with our Lord. It is from that intimacy that we are commissioned to do what He did and love one another so that the world will know His love and be one!

The final talk on Saturday was given by Joe and Julie Chircop who shared their wisdom regarding [Practical Considerations in Overcoming Challenges and Widening our Tent Pegs](#). Joe shared about the obstacles to growing and provided exhortations to us as leaders for combating the enemy. Julie encouraged us to hear from the Holy Spirit the specific word He has for us as a community and protect it, have faith in it! They both encouraged us to love the younger generation, respect them, and welcome their differences. The exhortation was to engage them, love them, and involve them to pass on the charism of community life.

For most of us I think the conference highlight was the [testimony](#) of Poncho Murguia. He shared about the radical call he heard from God and the miracles

that followed his yes! It is impossible for me to capture even a fraction of what he covered so I highly recommend you watch the video yourself.

This summer we may gather the Community to watch some of these videos together but regardless, I am confident that you will be blessed if you take the time to prayerfully engage these videos and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. You could also consider watching and discussing these in your small groups and bringing ideas of how you can respond to a coordinator or to me.

I would like to end by again thanking Tom Fedor for all his help editing the videos and posting all this material to the NAN and CCGD websites. Thank you, Tom!

God Bless,

David