



NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS

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From the Editor
From the Desk of the NAN Moderator
Introducing the New NAN Moderator
The Gift of Leadership
*The North American Network of
Charismatic Covenant Communities
2024 Conference*
*Introducing the Community of Christ the
Reconciler*
Great Reads in the Communities
*An Invitation to Prayer and Action in
Nine-Year Novena*



*Newsletter of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant
Communities (NAN)*



NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



From the Editor

One would think after two articles on the topic in our Newsletter and much encouragement from Anne Hamrick, Moderator of New Creation Community, I would have gotten on board. But after a couple of false starts, I finally got into a rhythm. I am talking about “The Lord’s Day Celebration”.

This weekly, Saturday evening celebration used to be a regular part of our community life, and somehow had fallen into disuse. My husband Dirk and I were first introduced to this aspect of community life at a New Creation family celebration in 1981. It seemed a solemn yet joyous celebration of community life and relationships.

Forward to 2023, and it was time for a rebirth of this celebration in our own home. I had a couple of false starts. In my exuberance, I invited over 20 people for a couple of Lord’s Day Celebrations. This entailed some furniture moving, table borrowing and setting, menu coordinating and cooking. I was exhausted before the first guest arrived! And after the second try, I gave up!

Enter 2024 – a new perspective and a new start. We decided to invite the maximum number who could fit around our breakfast room table, which is six including us.



By Mary Ann West, Editor

We decided one by one, and couple by couple, we would invite each member of our community, each person who attends our community prayer meeting, and branch out from there.

Meal wise, I alternate between two main dish recipes with slight alterations. If anyone asks what they can bring, I suggest a vegetable of their choosing or salad. I serve variations of the same dessert. I set the table with a washable, permanent press white tablecloth, cloth napkins, crystal wine glasses, candle in the center of the table, and a Lord’s Day booklet at each place. I purchase bakery bread along with a bottle of wine and/or grape juice.

I enjoy this evening now. Because the preparation is simple, I have energy to interact with my brothers, sisters, and guests. Conversation is lively, relaxed, intimate, relationship building. Bringing in the Lord’s Day together is a joy again!

As I was pondering this letter, I thought perhaps it’s not even specifically the Lord’s Day Celebration that you might resurrect. Perhaps the Lord will remind you of an area of community life that has collected a bit of dust, and that needs to be brought to the fore again. I would encourage: small beginnings, doable execution, perhaps big results!



Notice: The Forum for Christian Unity is sponsoring a conference titled “**Learning from the Past & Preparing for the Future**”. It will be hosted by Alleluia Community beginning at 5:00 pm, Wednesday, June 26 until noon, Saturday, June 29, in Augusta, Georgia. Speakers include Dr. John Gresham, Dr. Matteo Calisi, and Rabbi Dr. Mark Kinzer. Two of the talk titles are: “Streams of Renewal and Opportunities for Christian Unity”, “The Unifying Future of Receptive Ecumenism” There are also ample times for questions and answers, as well as Table and Panel Discussion. For registration, in-person or streaming participation, for a full list of speakers as well as the complete schedule, please go to: unityforum2024.org.



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NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



From the Desk of the NAN Moderator

By David Peterman Jr., NAN Moderator



As this is my first letter as the newly discerned moderator of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities (NAN), my comments in this article might be broader than just what is covered in this issue of our newsletter. This is because I believe so passionately that God is at work across NAN in

bringing renewal and revival to our cities, states, and countries.

NAN was created in response to numerous leaders of Charismatic Covenant Communities in North America desiring to hear the Lord together, discern His call, and collaborate in our response. Some of these communities have already celebrated their jubilee anniversaries! God has already accomplished through them what would have been thought unimaginable when they were formed.

What is critical for all of us today is to reassure ourselves that God is not finished with us yet. His people in every age are called again and again to discern what He is about and surrender to His perfect will, as best we can together discern it. One thing that is abundantly clear is that our neighborhoods, our cities, our countries, our culture are more in need of our Lord than ever before. The world, the flesh, and the devil appear stronger than ever.

But of course, we as Christians know how the story ends, and rather than fearing the challenges of our times, we respond with zeal. NAN and its member communities have already responded with the confidence of Esther (4:14) that we were created, called, and empowered “for such a time as this”. Let us never tire of humbling ourselves before our Father, accepting the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, to say “Yes” to going wherever He leads and doing whatever He calls us to.

In addition to challenging us all to read and enjoy this newsletter, I also exhort everyone to spend quality time listening again to the teachings and sharings that were given at our 2024 conference. They are conveniently located on our website www.NANCCC.org on the “Events” tab under “2024 Conference”. I want to suggest that this content can be useful for our own personal growth and development, as material that we could share with our small groups, as well as consideration given to gathering our whole community together to listen together and discern responses.

Our 2024 annual conference was a huge blessing for all those who were able to attend. Let us magnify the blessing by going back to it and allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire us again and again to be His particular People that He can use today to accomplish His purposes. For such a time as this, we were called. Let us say “Yes!”





NEW WINE AND NEW WINE SKINS



Introducing the New NAN Moderator

**By Laurie Peterman,
Christian Community of God's Delight**

I was asked to write an article about my husband David who has agreed to serve as the moderator of NAN for this current term. I was unsure where to begin, but since the objective is to introduce him to the wider NAN communities, I will start with some simple background.



David and I grew up as second-generation leaders within the Christian Community of God's Delight (CCGD), a predominantly Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community in Dallas, Texas. We were blessed to have been active from a young age and were drawn into relationships with our Lord and each other while participating and serving in the youth and young adult ministries of the Community.

We both worked hard - David at his job at Texas Instrument, and I in the home raising our five daughters.

Our joint life philosophy was always centered on discerning God's will and following it wherever it led. This path led us to Houston, Texas for six and a half years where our appreciation for Covenant Community grew. (Absence does make the heart grow fonder 😊).



The Lord brought us back to Dallas where David agreed to lead our Community School, Mount St. Michael Catholic School. All five of our daughters were enrolled there. Three years after our return, the community coordinators asked David to be the overall coordinator of the Community. We are both passionate about

the value of Covenant Community, not only for our own growth in holiness, but also for the impact on our children. As a result, we have devoted much of our time and energy to building Covenant Community in North Texas.

David is a multiplexer. Not only has he been leading the Community and our School, but until recently he maintained a full-time job at Texas Instrument as well as his responsibilities at home to me and our children. Outside of family and community service, David enjoys racquetball which he plays for several hours three days a week. I could not stand being in a small room with a ball traveling 150 mph, but he can't seem to get enough. He is also a big fan of fishing, and we are hopeful he will have more opportunities for that soon. David and I are also involved in Diocesan ministries that promote vocations. We also love to travel and especially just enjoy being together.

David works hard to serve those God has called him to serve. I pray that this opportunity to serve in NAN will edify all of you because he truly is a treasure!





NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



The Gift of Leadership

By Anne Hamrick,
New Creation Community

We need our leaders! We are told in Heb. 13:17, “Obey your leaders and defer to them, for they keep watch over our souls and will have to give an account.” Good leaders make sacrifices for our benefit.

In the Charis Servant Leadership Course entitled “Life of the Leader”, Jim Murphy points out that leadership is God’s idea. Christ Himself gave us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:11-12) He also points out that leaders come with different gifts. He suggests three manifestations of leadership: Visionary, Pastoral, and Administrative, and he gives an example of how each works.

The Visionary Leader’s strength is hearing the Lord’s word for the community. It is a prophetic leadership. Pastoral Leaders have a heart for their people and are concerned for the individual. The Administrative Leader has a gift for knowing the details necessary to achieve a goal.

Jim Murphy gives the example of climbing a mountain. The Visionary/ Prophet says, “God wants us to climb the mountain!” The Administrative Leader’s attention will be on the details necessary for a successful climb, such as having water, food, and the correct equipment necessary for success. The Pastoral Leader will be

concerned for those who are having difficulty climbing the mountain. His focus will be on helping those continue to climb: “Can I help you over the rocks?” “Do you need a walking stick?”

The strengths of all three types of leadership are valuable; however, the differences can lead to tension. For example, the Visionary Prophet may be pushing to start the climb NOW, and not understand why the Administrative Leaders are not moving as quickly as the Prophet may think is right. Meanwhile, the Administrative Leaders, who are concerned with the equipment necessary to make the ascent, may feel a push from the Prophet before they believe necessary preparations are ready. Both may need patience with the Pastoral Leaders whose attention is concerned with the needs of the individuals.

All three of these leadership manifestations are important. The key to unity is understanding and appreciating the value of the different giftings and what each brings to the table. Vision, attention to detail, and care for the individual work together to build up the Body.

Thank you, Lord,
for our leaders and the
different gifts of service to
us.





NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



The North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities 2024 Conference

Peter Poppleton is Moderator of the IPECC Service Team. Peter opened the NAN Conference speaking on our charism as charismatic covenant communities. “Being part of a people formed by God is deeply rooted in us... We live a covenant life that is founded in the Holy Spirit... We have been called together in that relationship, not only with the Holy Trinity, but with each other. Being part of a people is who we are. That is primary in our relationship with the Lord and with each other... It is out of who we are (in the Lord) that we are called to do the work of the Lord. We carry that identity of being in the Lord as a people, as we go out.”



Mark Gargulinski is the Coordinator of Mother of God Community. Mark shared the charismatic aspect of our call. Concerning removing obstacles to increasing in the charisms: “The first obstacle is self. We need to grow in knowledge of ourselves... I pray to be delivered from myself – from self-trust, my self-gifts, the self-life, all my thoughts and desires...and pray that the power of the Holy Spirit comes through me.”

Dan Almeter is an Elder of Alleluia Community. Dan gave testimony to covenant community. “The icon of covenant community life- ...When people walk into our communities or meetings, what they need to experience from us is the unconditional love of the Lord. The main charism of covenant life is the unconditional love of the Lord...Covenant Community is meant to be transformational. It’s meant to be a place where people experience the powerful love of God and then take that love and pass it out as far and broad as we can possibly do it.



Johannes Fichtenbauer is a Member of IPECC Service Team. He addressed our common call for community through biblical history and in the present...As the peak of God’s creation, we are called to reflect God’s Nature. And God’s nature is the dynamics of a relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... God is community – perfect community, perfect order, perfect freedom, perfect obedience, perfect submission, perfect love. Not centered around itself, but creative and able to give and to bless the whole universe. People are called, as the peak of creation, to have a desire for community deeply imbedded in us all”.

Word
I am calling you deeper. I am calling you wider. Follow me. I see the Lord expanding the territory he has given you. And as you make those steps in faith, all the doors are open. I will glorify you. Keep me first.





NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS

The North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities 2024 Conference (Cont'd)

John Gresham is a retired theology professor at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, and is involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Fort Meyers, Florida. He spoke on the need for ecumenical dialogue to move towards intercultural dialogue. He quoted from Pope Francis in Joy of the Gospel: “If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another.”



Mark Wilby is an elder with the Alleluia Community. He spoke on how communities need to be outwardly focused, and he stressed the necessity of obedience. “If we obey, He will reveal Himself to us. Obedience is critical. If we do whatever He tells us, we will be right where we need to be. And people will see (communities) glorified with His presence.”

Joe and Julie Chircop are founders of Servants of Jesus Community in Sydney, Australia. “If we get a word from the Lord, we pray it through first before implementing it. Whatever you’re doing, you need to win it in the Spirit first... What is your ‘now’ word from the Lord? What are you doing about it? ... Through travail in the Spirit, you break through. This requires repentance and thanksgiving.” (The leaders often pray together weekly in the Spirit for up to 3 hours.)



Pastor Poncho Murgia gave witness through his testimony. The Lord called him to leave a mega-church in Juarez, Mexico, where he had been the pastor for 29 years, to witness to gang members in prisons. Through his obedience, the city has been transformed. “Do whatever the Holy Spirit tells you to do – no more and no less!” he stressed.



Word
Value the prophetic in
our personal lives first,
and in our
communities.



NEW WINE AND NEW WINE SKINS



Introducing the Community of Christ the Reconciler

By Thomas Cogdell,
Christ the Reconciler Community

We at [Christ the Reconciler](#) are very happy to be Underway members of NAN! Thank you all for your warm welcome, and for spending time getting to know us and answering our (many) questions over the last year or so.

For those of you we haven't met, here is a brief introduction to our community. In one way, we've been around for 20+ years as a fellowship of friends who have walked closely in life and ministry together. But in another way, we're just getting started – this summer will see the first group of us make a covenant commitment (which we call “all-in”). In the intervening two decades, here are some of the ways the Lord has worked in our midst:

We began in 2000 as a Protestant 24/7 prayer ministry, focused on establishing “Austin House of Prayer” as an urban prayer room in the heart of East Austin. This is where, in 1928, the City Council had forced the Black and Hispanic minorities to move.

But early on the Lord miraculously drew my wife Amy into the Catholic Church at Easter, 2001. This very much changed the trajectory of our family and of the ministry. We understood at that time that eventually we would be a community, but that we had a lot of work to do before that would be possible!

In 2004, we started a for-profit business selling a high-end bottled water ([Cielo](#)) as an “economic engine” for the ministry. After a few years Phillip and



Caroline Owens, who co-led CTR with Amy and me, took over leadership of Cielo. They have grown it over the years into a solid, sustainable business that has served its purpose well.

In 2008, Amy and I took a trip to Europe that we planned as a family vacation, but the Lord had deeper plans. On that trip we met Fr. Peter Hocken in Herrnhut, Germany, along with George and Hanna Miley, and many others who have since become dear friends and strong influences on our life.

From 2010 through 2017, our community was heavily involved in an international reconciliation initiative called [Wittenberg 2017](#), which culminated with



Introducing the Community of Christ the Reconciler (Cont'd)

a prayer gathering at the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Leaders from all four major streams of the historic Church (Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Messianic Jews) grieved our divisions, repented, and prayed John 17 with Jesus for unity in the body of Christ.

Through Wittenberg 2017, we met the Bruderhof and subsequently (in 2018) visited their Woodcrest, New York location. The visit was instrumental in (re-)starting us on the road to intentional community.

Also, through Wittenberg 2017, we met Johannes Fichtenbauer of ENC who (in 2021) introduced us to Dan Almeter, Bob Garrett, and Peter Poppleton. Amy and I visited Alleluia that summer. This proved pivotal in understanding the importance of all-in (covenant) commitments, and in beginning a relationship with NAN.

We currently own 16 acres of land outside of Austin and have our ministry center / community house established there, along with the water business. There is a master plan for developing the property with housing for community members and a prayer chapel. Working with a gifted team of developers, architects, and engineers as well as an innovative 3-D house printing company

(ICON), we are hopeful to build houses on the land by the end of 2025. This will be a big step forward in the development of community.

We have rooms for guests currently, please come and visit us!





NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



Great Reads in the Communities

A review of *Catholics in Exile: Biblical Wisdom for the Journey Home* by Scott Hahn, and Brandon McGinley

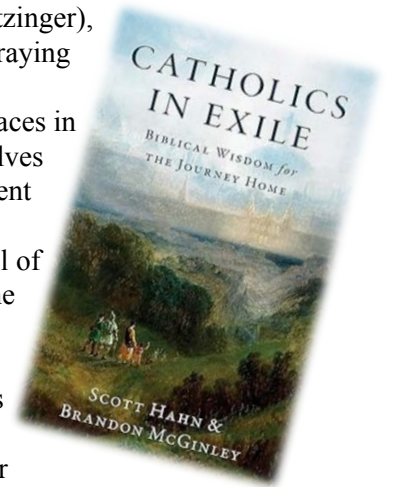
By Bill Kohler,
City of the Lord

The more I read this book, the more I liked it. I liked it because it was about *home*, the place where so many of the people I know and love are, where the very familiar is located, where security and trust are present, and where life is really and fully lived. There is a chapter in the book on prolepsis, which means bringing a little bit of heaven to earth. I am hopeful that our communities become *home* and can reflect a little bit of heaven on earth.

The idea of this book is simple and straightforward. Catholics (and by extension all Christians) live on this earth as exiles because we live away from our *true* home, which is heaven. This book offers great biblical and pastoral wisdom on how to live as exiles here while on our way to our eternal home to see and be with Jesus and his people, the saints, forever.

Written in the style and form of a pilgrimage, Hahn and McGinley use Exodus, Jeremiah, and the letter to the Hebrews as their primary biblical texts to briefly sketch how to produce a faithful and fruitful life. They readily acknowledge that Christendom lies in ruins and that Catholics live in a situation comparable to a diaspora or scattering among the nations. To ensure that the exiles spread the gospel effectively, they emphasize a life consisting of participation in the liturgy (“the true engine of history”), reception of the sacraments, doing good to everyone (which constitutes true resistance to evil,

according to Joseph Ratzinger), planting, procreating, praying for and working for the common good of the places in which they find themselves exiled, and being obedient to the governing authorities. They live all of this while growing in the perfection of love or holiness over a long period of time (70 years or so as evidenced by the exile in Babylon, for example). The authors use the final chapters to demonstrate the importance of celebrating the Lord’s Day in an active way which will help the exiled prepare for the eternal Sabbath Rest.



While I highly recommend this book, there are some things I find problematic. First, I find that it has little or no sense of *urgency*. The sense of time in this book (“longanimity”) seems to be at odds with St. Paul’s sense that “time is running out” (1 Corinthians 7:29-31). Further, since liturgy is perhaps most important to the authors, what are we to do if we are forced to endure more lockdowns and our churches are closed again? We are experiencing a great apostasy from Christianity, and it may be that “the restrainer” of



NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



Great Reads in the Communities (Cont'd)

A review of Catholics in Exile: Biblical Wisdom for the Journey Home by Scott Hahn, and Brandon McGinley (Cont'd)

the “man of lawlessness” has been removed so that signs of the appearance of the antichrist may now be in play (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). Even Joseph Ratzinger saw that we were in “the time of the antichrist.” Thus, do we take the long view of time? Or is there an urgency in the present moment?

Second, the authors propose this way of life in a diaspora until Christendom is re-established sometime in the future. They miss something important. They miss that Christendom cannot come until the Acts of the Apostles is repeated in history. Christendom began with Acts. It will begin again only if Acts fully comes first.

Third, the authors advocate working for “the common good.” I am skeptical of the ability to work for the common good. Seemingly, what we hold in common decreases by the day and more and more we cannot agree on the good or what is good.

Finally, I am wary of the authors' version of Catholic integralism (i.e., the political *throne* aligned with the religious *altar*). I am not convinced that it is desirable or even doable, particularly in America, which is founded on the *separation* of church and state. Nevertheless, problems or potential problems aside, the biblical and pastoral wisdom in this book is too good to pass up. Read it while putting

one foot in front of another. It contains great Biblical wisdom for the journey home.





NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



An Invitation to Prayer and Action in Nine-Year Novena

Launching on Pentecost, May 19, 2024, Holy Spirit 2033 is an invitation to the prayer and action of a nine-year novena crying out for a new and ongoing Pentecost in the Renewal, in the Church, and in the world.

In preparation for the 2,000th Anniversary of Pentecost, the vision is that Holy Spirit 2033, as a nine-year novena, will be a catalyst for a new and ongoing Pentecost. May the Lord fulfill this vision through our **prayer and action**: that prayer meetings and churches overflow with Spirit-filled missionary disciples. These disciples, who are first engaged in charismatic prayer and worship then go forth into the whole world with hearts on fire proclaiming that Jesus is Lord; calling people to repentance and metanoia through joyful invitation into full communion with the Church.

Holy Spirit 2033 will have three 3-year sub-themes of prayer and action. The first 3-year Novena sub-theme (2024-2026) is for **renewal in the Charismatic Renewal**. This includes all ministries, groups, and individuals who have already received the grace of the Holy Spirit. **Year 2025 is specific prayer and action for and within Covenant Communities**.

Renewal within in the Charismatic Renewal then ignites **Church Renewal**, the 2nd 3-year sub-theme (2027-2029).

Church Renewal then ignites the fire of the love, power, and presence of the Holy Spirit in the World. **Renewal in the World** is the 3rd sub-theme (2030-2032).

In initiating this novena, we, community members, and all individuals and realities of the Charismatic Renewal are invited to come together in unity for this season of prayer and action in preparation for the beginning of the third millennium that will be Spirit-filled, a season of a New Pentecost.



Come Holy Spirit, Renew the face of the Earth!

Information for this article was taken from Pentecost Today Magazine, Issue 2, 2023, p. 9-12, and adapted for this issue of New Wine, New Wineskins.



For a fuller explanation, prayers, and resources, please go to www.PentecostTodayUSA.org/HS2033

