

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is **TODAY** at 4pm continuing our pattern of in-person prayer meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Gretchen Montgomery, our representative to the Diocesan Synod, sent us a quick update noting that the Catechetical Sessions that were to instruct on the Synodal process is complete. The Diocese is now starting Listening Sessions where the Bishop is able to hear our perspective on various topics. Ten sessions have been scheduled between March 26 and October 2023. Please consider participating - you can register [here](#).
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Two weeks ago, I wrote about our Community's participating in the [North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities](#) (NAN) conference. If you missed the letter you can read it [here](#). The NAN network is an effort to replace the camaraderie that developed amongst the Charismatic Covenant Communities across North America when the Fraternity ended. The Holy Spirit has used this strong fellowship to help the North American Communities hear the Holy Spirit and develop their covenant community life. NAN exists to **build relationships** among its members, **help one another in common challenges** such as growing in holiness and supporting our youth, **witness** through our love for one another, and **collaborate in mission** responding to what the Holy Spirit is about in our day.

In future letters I will share the content of the conference along with links to the specific talks and witnesses so that you will be able to enjoy the conference yourself. With this letter I would like to set the stage for the conference by sharing what the Holy Spirit was speaking to the service team that organized the conference. To really get the most out of this I encourage you to take the time to read the articles referenced and pray through each one and then bring forth your discernment.

Many of the leaders of NAN communities, including all of CCGD's coordinators are reading a book about the end of the Apostolic age entitled [From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age](#). More on the message of the book later but what I call your attention to is a television program in 1974 where Archbishop Fulton Sheen proclaimed "We are at the end of Christendom". There are a number of articles and videos covering the program but I invite you to read the [NCR article here](#). The situation today is clearly worse than in 1974 but his encouragements then need to be received by us such as **"live your lives in the full consciousness of this hour of testing, and rally close to the heart of Christ"** and **"Be the minority"**. He goes on to call for an aggressive response to combat the world.

A similar message that the leaders of NAN have been reviewing is a message where Father Joseph Ratzinger predicted the future of the Church in 1969. There are many sources of this since it was a German radio broadcast but I recommend this article: [When Father Joseph Ratzinger Predicted the Future of the Church](#). He anticipated that the Church would have to **"become small and will have to start afresh"** and **"discover new forms of ministry"**. He is confident that, despite the challenges we face, a Church of faith will remain!

Finally, the third article to share with you came up during the opening session of the conference when the leaders gathered to pray. It was an interview with Cardinal Ratzinger which first aired on EWTN on September 5th, 2003. You can read it [here](#). The part that I encourage attention to is a few pages down where he states **"The essential things in history begin always with the small, more convinced communities."** The next few paragraphs explain the power that comes from small numbers and especially young people committed to the Lord. This is where many Charismatic leaders believe we are and the reason we decided to entitle this year's NAN conference [Covenant Communities for a New Generation](#). Understanding and discerning these words will help understanding what the Holy Spirit said to us during the conference that I will detail in future letters.

God bless,

David