

On October 25-27, 2024, my dad, Sharon Harman, Laurie and I were privileged to attend the Holy Spirit 2024 - National Leaders Meeting. It was held at the NET Ministries Center in St. Paul Minnesota. This is an annual conference like the one we sponsored here in Dallas in 2019. It is put on by the Pentecost Today USA team that was formally know as the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US.

It is always a joy to join with three to four hundred Catholic Charismatic leaders from across the country representing so many facets of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States. I was particularly looking forward to the visit knowing that [SPO](#) (St. Paul's Outreach) and [NET](#) (National Evangelization Teams) are based there. I also learned that there are two very strong Covenant Communities there, one associated with the Sword of the Spirit and one that is a branch of the People of Praise.

The theme of the conference was [Be Aglow with the Spirit](#) taken from Romans 12:11 "Never flag in zeal. Be Aglow with the Spirit. Serve the Lord." These words rang true throughout the conference especially in the presentations and long periods of blessed praise and worship.

Deacon Ralph Poyo was awesome in filling in for Dr. Mary Healy who was scheduled to speak but was unable to attend due to an illness. Bishop Peter Smith is always inspiring and brings a unique perspective being a member of People of Praise. I was particularly impressed with Archbishop Bernard Hebda who oversees the Archdiocese of Minneapolis St. Paul and did not just show up for the closing mass but attended the Saturday evening session as well. I was very blessed to hear Archbishop Hebda deliver such encouraging words during his homily on Sunday.

I have previously shared about Holy Spirit 2033 which is a nine-year novena to praying together for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the 200th anniversary of Pentecost. Specifically, the Novena is to pray "COME, HOLY SPIRIT" at 9am each morning until Pentecost Sunday 2033. Each year there is a particular prayer intention. The annual intention for Pentecost 2025 will be Covenant Communities.

In preparation for this I was asked to host a workshop on the topic of "What is Covenant Community? How to Get Involved. How to collaborate."

I started the workshop attempting to give a clear answer to the question of What is Covenant Community. While not being aware of a universally agreed upon definition, I explained these three aspects:

- 1) A Covenant Community involves **a call from God and a response**. It comes into being when God calls a group of people to enter into a specific covenant relationship with Him, that He initiates with its founders. Later members join after living the community's

covenant life for a time and discerning, with the community, that they hear the same call.

- 2) A second aspect of Covenant Community is the **total giving of oneself**. In making a solemn public agreement to God in joining the Covenant Community, a new member **pledges themselves fully to God and to its existing members** (not to a cause or mission but our whole lives). We let our **total surrender to our Lord**, and our **visible love for our covenant brothers and sisters**, become a primary witness.
- 3) Covenant communities are **A People** who are **led by the Holy Spirit, empowered by His Gifts**, and who, individually & as a particular People, **discern and join in what God is about** in order to **accomplish His purpose**. When there is such a group, who are really “All In”, God can accomplish things simply not otherwise possible.

The workshop brought together witnesses and testimonies from four large networks/communities who have a strong presence in the United States:

- 1) Sword of the Spirit represented by Bob Thornton and Ed Gross,
- 2) People of Praise represented by Bernie Schwab,
- 3) The Emmanuel Community represented by Fr. Manthey, and finally
- 4) The North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities which I shared about. Sharon Harman brought our covenant community to life through a wonderful testimony.

Overall, the conference was a real blessing. It was announced that next year the conference, Holy Spirit 2025, will be held on October 10-12, 2025, at the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston. I encourage everyone in our Community to consider attending.

If you are not already praying the [Holy Spirit 2033 Novena](#), I exhort you to join with thousands of prayer warriors all over the world in praying for a new and ongoing Pentecost in our own lives, in the Church, and in the world!

God Bless,
David