

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
A Vision for the Word Power Conference
Hall Miller
June 21, 2009

I want to share with you a vision for what God is doing in our lives and in the church. What God is calling this community to and how he has been working to bring it about. In hindsight I don't think I was clear enough or didn't communicate clearly enough about the vision for this conference. I repent because I lost sight of the immensity of what God has done, is doing and will bring about in and through us.

- I knew it would be a great conference
- But I forgot the vision

Question that I am posing tonight is, either this is:

- Another conference MOGC is hosting
- An essential grace that God is pouring out on us to renew this body and the renewal in this area

Digression - Steubenville youth conference

- 10 MOG
- 2200 youth
- Taught praise and worship
- Alter call, couple hundred, 2, Fr Dave lead sinners prayer
- This morning prayed over for baptism in HS
- 19 around US and Canada, 40,000 youth/ year
- Had coffee with the director; he said that they have gotten bolder and bolder about BHS

Unrelated but very related event from Last week: I had a young man share his experience with the Holy Spirit with me. I say young man, he was 12 years old. This is what had just happened in their small group in LIS

So S got an image of a white flower for JR while for J he got more of a video clip...of J being lost but then picking up his sword, hacking his way thru thickets to where he was no longer lost. S got another video clip for F of a path with tall brick walls on either side and as he walked he was able to break thru them. Then, J got a picture for S...of a trap that he was caught in that was suddenly released. Finally J asked if they should pray over me and they did...and I think it was S, maybe J, got a picture of a wall that I could break thru or that was too high to climb but as I prayed God lifted me over it.

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even upon the menservants and maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."

What did St. Peter say about the day of Pentecost, "THIS IS IT!" This is what has been foretold! Or have we forgotten the grace of the Lord? Have we forgotten Gods graciousness? Has the Baptism in the Holy Spirit become just another goodie that our lord has given us? No- it is the reason that this community exists. It is the reason that I have given up my career and others have picked up their families and moved here. God is renewing His Church and he has called us to be at the center of that. It is imperative that this community takes up this mantle that God has given to us. We are called to live the Baptism in the HS **in greater fullness**, in ecclesial maturity and continue to hold out this grace to the Church, in particular in this DC metropolitan area.

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I keep thinking of the words of our Lady to Juan Diego, "**It is absolutely necessary that it be you.**" God has a place for this community in the renewal of His Church. He reminded us a year ago that all that he has ever intended for this body, all that he has ever promised to this body is our inheritance; our heritage. **Who has faith to believe this?**

Can we all say with the prophet Joel,

2:17 "Spare your people O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'where is their God?'"

2:18-19 "Then the Lord became jealous for His land, and had pity on his people, The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

So I ask you again, either this is:

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Brothers and sisters,

- God is renewing His vision for us.
- God is renewing His Spirit and gifts among us.
- God has been working profoundly over this past year awakening and empowering

But THERE IS MORE. Isn't this so much like God? THERE IS MORE, He is not finished, this work of the HS is ALIVE! He is renewing His Church across the world NOW in a wide variety of dynamics. He is renewing MOGC today in our charisms. He is preparing us for our future. Word Power conference is an ESSENTIAL part of this work. He has renewal of the graces of our charism for this body. He has renewal of the graces of this unprecedented outpouring of this past century and in the Catholic Church flowing from Vatican II.

I spent the weekend in Steubenville (quote from Cardinal Arinze). I don't mean to compare MOGC to Franciscan U of S but each is a unique and particular work of grace in and for the Church in our day. We each have a place in the renewal of the Church.

What is MOGC's place?

What impact has MOGC had over these past 40 years? Did not God intervene to ensure that this body would continue to ...? What will the next 20 years look like?

God has.... [fruit in the history of MOGC]

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I stood up before you, as a newly elected coordinator last fall, and proclaimed the HOPE that had been restored to me for us. The HOPE, FAITH and EXPECTATION in God's restoring this Community to his purpose, our part in the renewal of his Church.

This Conference is an essential part of that.

We need our members, and friends, involved, engaged, attending, praying, serving, allowing HS to renew his work in us individually and as a body. My daughter was part of that LIS that middle school kids participated in. She asked God for gifts of prophecy and healing! I'm bringing her to the conference so God can answer that prayer in her young life! Let's use our imaginations. What might happen at summer camp this year? How much does this impact our recent initiatives for the families? Is God answering our prayers for the next generation?

YES

God is bringing us brothers and sisters from the larger Church to help renew the MOGC to his plan for us and for the renewal in this area.

Again, either this is:

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Let's look at Joel again. What did God call His people to? What is he calling us to in a particular way between now and the conference?

Let's read Joel together. Open your Bibles

First we will look at Joel 1:1-12

Vs 7- "It has laid waste my vines, it has splintered my fig trees" John: "I am the vine, you are the branches..." The Lord is crying out for His people.

Vs. 11- "Because the harvest of the field has perished" Whole section is the OPPOSITE of Pentecost/ Harvest. Instead of abundance all is laid bare. God's people, his vines, are in ruin.

Vs. 12- "gladness fails"

Vs 13- "Put on sackcloth and lament...wail oh ministers of the altar, pass the night in sackcloth, o ministers of my God- Because cereal offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God"

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I felt the Lord saying, "YOU, my people. You wail and lament. You, put on sackcloth- WHY? Because these offerings are withheld from the house of the Lord your God. God grieves for his people. I felt the Lord saying, "If not you then who?" Who will take a stand for God and his people?

vs. 14 Sanctify a fast... cry out to the Lord

Vs 15-18- my people are lost. They are not what I created, died for...

Through 2:11- RAVAGING of the land, of the people of God

2 Vs 12- YET EVEN NOW- invitation of our loving God

2 Vs 14- WHO KNOWS, whether he will not turn and repent and leave a blessing behind him? A cereal offering and a drink offering

I need this conference. I need God to continue and deepen this "wake up" of my spirit and my gifting. This is not Rah, Rah everybody has to come. This is an **opportunity** for each of us, for the Community and for the local Church.

So what do we do from here? The body needs to prepare [10 points?]. We each and all need to beseech our Lord 2 Vs 14- **WHO KNOWS, whether he will not turn and repent and leave a blessing behind him? A cereal offering and a drink offering**

What a time of grace! A time to fast and pray with great expectancy for our future.

Review 10 points

To wrap up...

Please

1. **Prepare your hearts**- pray, fast, read Joel. Ask God to give you a vision for his renewal of his Church in and through our lives. Ask God to pour out his Spirit upon us and upon his Church.
2. Sign up to come for as much as you can. If money is an issue please don't let it be we can work that out. Bring college kids and young adults
3. Sign up to help in some way. We need everyone's help [Betsey?]
4. Call friends and invite them. Send out info to invite people. Give them the vision of what God is doing.