

FIRE IN MY BONES: Lord, Send the Fresh Fire of Pentecost

Editor's Note: Although Pentecost 2024 has passed, the need for the Holy Spirit's power has not. Enjoy this column from former Charisma editor J. Lee Grady.

On Feb. 17, 1967, more than 57 years ago, a miracle happened that the world has largely ignored. It happened at a small Catholic retreat center called The Ark and the Dove, where a group of students from Duquesne University had gathered for a weekend of prayer. Suddenly and without any warning, those students were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Patti Gallagher Mansfield, one of the first students to experience this outpouring of the Spirit, says she knew something remarkable and otherworldly had happened.

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"Within the next hour, God sovereignly drew many of the students into the chapel," she writes. "Some were laughing, others crying. Some prayed in tongues, others like me felt a burning sensation coursing through their hands."

Gallagher had prayed a simple prayer prior to experiencing her personal Pentecost. She prayed, "Father, I give my life to You. Whatever You ask of me, I accept. And if it means suffering, I accept that too. Just teach me to follow Jesus and to love as He loves."

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The world was in turmoil in February 1967. Israel was on the

verge of war with Palestinians. Racial tensions in the United States were triggering violence. Young protesters were demanding an end to the Vietnam War.

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Few people noticed what happened to those students at Duquesne, but the fire that fell on them spread quickly to other campuses. Within a year, the Catholic charismatic movement spread to millions—and it jumped the theological firewall to touch Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and believers from all denominations. It became the largest Christian movement since the Protestant reformation.

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