

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President of ICCRS to the CCR for the New Millennium

BY ALLAN PANOZZA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I have just returned home to Australia after attending the Congress for Catholic Laity, which was held in Rome 25 – 30 November 2000. The Congress was presented by the Pontifical Council for Laity under the theme “*Witnesses of Christ in the New Millennium*”, and drew together more than 500 delegates from all parts of the world including both clergy and lay people. The program presented a broad range of topics which were addressed by eminent speakers, and also allowed opportunity for delegates to speak to the Congress concerning matters which were relative to situations in their various regions of the world.

During the famous Pentecost eve Mass celebrated by the Holy Father in St. Peter’s Square on 30 May 1998, he exhorted the various movements and associations in the Church to foster what he called “*ecclesial maturity*”. How should we apply this to Catholic Charismatic Renewal? I believe that we should be open to freely use the charisms given by the Holy Spirit, and stand ready to exercise these gifts on all appropriate occasions as the Spirit leads. At the same time we must always remain firmly rooted within the Catholic Church, adhering faithfully to what she believes and teaches.

The extraordinary grace which we call “*The Baptism in the Spirit*”, or sometimes “*The Release in the Spirit*” is a special gift whereby we are each called into a new and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. More than 100 million Catholics worldwide have experienced this “touch of the Lord” during the past 33 years. As we now step into the third millennium we should be filled with joy in the expectation that God will continue to do a new thing through the work of the Renewal. Jesus reminded the disciples to judge each and every action by the fruits which they bring forth, and I believe that we have yet to experience the full fruits of the Charismatic Renewal, which Pope John Paul has described as being “...since Vatican II, a special grace for the Church...”.

One thing which was very obvious

to me during the Congress for Laity, was the diversity of gifts which have been given by the Holy Spirit to so many people all over the world. St. Paul reminds us concerning this ... “*There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them...*” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). I think that the Holy Spirit continues to call the whole Church into unity, to be a sign of oneness in a world which is so divided by tension and strife, as it tentatively sets foot into the new millennium. The Church must be a beacon of hope for the millions who have little or no hope in their daily lives. Similarly within the Movements of the Church let us be ever alert to the call of the Spirit to unity, and let us bring together



and use those charisms which each has received. If we work together in the love of Christ to proclaim the Kingdom of God, we will “...do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine...” (Ephesians 3:20). Catholic Charismatic Renewal has an important role to fulfil in this task, and stands ready to give leadership in its desire to promote a New Evangelization.

For many years the Charismatic Renewal has demonstrated its capacity to organise major events throughout the world, events which are focussed on giving glory to the Lord through the use of the prophetic gifts of the Spirit. In this way ICCRS has frequently exercised its mandate to serve the world wide Renewal through the ministries of teaching, preaching, and the presentation of healing seminars. Indeed as mentioned in this newsletter, ICCRS will sponsor an International Seminar on the Ministry of Deliverance to be held in Malta from 30 October to 3 November. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for solid Catholic teaching to be given on this most important

subject. I extend an invitation herewith to NSC’s throughout the world to sponsor delegates to this seminar who either have an interest in this ministry, or who are already actively involved in some way. ICCRS is also working in close relationship with the Pontifical Council for Laity, and later in November 2001 we will jointly sponsor a colloquium on the ministry of healing in the Church. Invitations to world leaders in this field will be sent out early in the New Year.

One area of particular concern for me is the matter of financial support for ICCRS.

There are three main streams of income which we rely upon. The first is donations which we receive at ICCRS from the different NSC’s throughout the world and from individual donors. The second is from funds which we are able to generate from time to time by promoting major events, and the third is from subscriptions to this newsletter. Donations from NSC’s around the world have been steadily declining during the past few years, and during the year ended December 2000, we received only a little more than half of the budgeted income. As this is our prime source of revenue, the situation is quite serious, and we consequently need to rely more heavily on generating funds through major events, such as seminars, conferences etc. The problem with promoting these too frequently is that because of the variables of cost and numbers who might attend, we can also incur a loss. I would therefore make an appeal to National Service Committees to re-evaluate your financial support for ICCRS, and where possible to recommit to an annual donation. Also, to sponsor and promote attendance at ICCRS events, and to foster subscriptions to this newsletter.

Having said all that, I nevertheless have a sense of excitement as we enter this third millennium. The Charismatic Renewal in the Church was the initiative of the Holy Spirit. He is not about to let it falter for any reason! May I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and I pray that members of the Renewal throughout the world will be blessed in abundance by the Lord, as we seek to remain open to the voice of the Holy Spirit.



INSTRUCTION ON PRAYERS FOR HEALING IS DEFENDED

ARCHBISHOP TARCISIO BERTONE SAYS: "MEDIA REPORTING WAS DISTORTED"

The recent publication of the "Instruction on Prayers for Healing" by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has stirred up public opinion due to the arbitrary interpretation by some of the mass media. Since this matter is so significant for the whole of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I think it is necessary to publish – without any further comments – an excerpt of Vatican Radio's interview (<sicsegre@vaticradio.va>) on this subject with the Secretary of the Vatican Congregation, Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone as it was published in a press release by the Catholic press agency "Zenit" (www.zenit.org) on Monday, 27th November 2000.

Oreste Pesare, ICCRS Director

The Vatican is concerned about the way in which some media sources have reported the publication of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's "On Prayers to Obtain Healing from God."

Therefore, Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of the congregation, which published the instruction with John Paul II's approval, tried to clarify, over Vatican Radio, the misunderstandings caused by the media.

Question: In many cases the media has interpreted the instruction as a "stop" from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to the "charismatic" prayer group meetings to obtain healing. Is this the case?

Archbishop Bertone: This interpretation is not right. Generally speaking, the document has a very positive introduction on prayers for healing in the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Church's tradition and also at present.

Because of this, I would like to specify: In order to avoid automatism, we have not said "healing prayers" in the document but "prayers to obtain healing." This specification is important because a necessary and unavoidable healing is not automatically connected to prayer, with the risk of very great disappointment, or even desperation,

if healing doesn't take place.

The groups of Renewal in the Spirit (Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which are very many and have been approved by the Church, naturally in keeping with statutes and rules of life that include a fully ecclesial identity card — the famous criteria of ecclesiality — have greatly helped the people of God, believers and baptized, in recent years to recover the taste for prayer, not to be defeated by the boredom of prayer, and not to neglect prayer.

Consequently, there is no desire to strike at the Renewal in the Spirit (Catholic Charismatic Renewal) groups: There is an intention to give rules of conduct that, as can be seen in the document, make clear distinctions between liturgical and non-liturgical celebrations, individual prayers and communal prayers.

Question: The document states that it "would be completely arbitrary to "a charism of healing" to any category of participants, for example, to the directors of the group; the only thing to do is entrust oneself to the free decision of the Holy Spirit, who grants to some a special charism of healing in order to show the power of the grace of the Risen Christ." Could you clarify this concept, which seems crucial?

Archbishop Bertone: Another problem arises here, which is a real problem of our time. In every period of the Church, there have been miracle-working men and women of God, who have effected

healings, including prodigious ones and real miracles. Let's think of Don Bosco, Blessed Padre Pio and other saints who have adorned the path of the Church.

Certainly today also there are persons who are gifted with this healing charism, because the Spirit acts in his immense and total sovereign freedom. However, discernment is always the work of the Church's authority, as St. Paul said in the first Letter to the Thessalonians: the discernment of charisms.

Moreover, we cannot canonize people before their time, we cannot give a miracle-working investiture to certain people, for example, leaders of groups ... as if they were automatically invested with a healing charism, and not give the Spirit the freedom to act also through other people.

Question: So?

Archbishop Bertone: The problem consists in distinguishing between the real charism of healing, which must be examined by the authority of the Church, and mythologizing, virtually the idolizing of persons, as we have seen recently including on some television transmissions, the exaltation of certain persons who allegedly had carried out thousand of cures, of "miracles."

This is inconceivable in the Church, precisely because the Spirit must be allowed to blow where he wills. It is important not to mythologize, not to favor certain meetings exclusively and, instead, to promote prayers to obtain healing, which is what the document of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith hopes to achieve. In this way, a void can also be filled, a lacuna that emerged especially after the council. 

Please, take note that ICCRS has changed e-mail address.

Our new e-mail addresses are:

info@iccrs.org

newsletter@iccrs.org

ICCRS is updating its web site. Visit it at **www.iccrs.org**

You can now visit our web site in **Spanish** and **Italian** too.

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The ICCRS Newsletter is the International Newsletter published bimonthly in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the world.

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PREPARE FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

(1 Peter 5:8,9 - Eph 6:10-13)

ATTEND THE SEMINAR ON DELIVERANCE

Malta - 30 Oct to 4 Nov 2001

To be better trained for the ministry of deliverance

Why? *What are the greatest needs of the church today?* asked Pope Paul VI on 15th November 1972. "Do not let our answer surprise you as being over-simple or even superstitious and unreal: one of the greatest needs is defense from that evil which is called the Devil" was his reply!

When? From Tuesday 30 October to Saturday 3 November 2001.

Where? Malta, a small island state in the Mediterranean Sea, known culturally for its rich Catholic tradition dating back to St. Paul, even then known equally for its hospitality and for signs and wonders (Acts 28:1-10), and situated geographically, in a way, at the centre and crossroads of the world, between the continents of Europe and Africa and of the Americas and Asia-Oceania.

The Program? Besides the daily Eucharistic celebrations and the liturgy of the Hours, the daily program will consist mainly of three (or four) biblical, theological and pastoral teachings on the reasons for oppression and the process of deliverance, each teaching followed by a time for sharings and discussions, and of practical training and personal ministry.

Topics? Does the devil really exist? If he exists, is the evil in the world today due also to him or is it only of man's own making? If evil is also caused by him, how can one be sure that a case is only a medical or psychological problem or is a case

needing deliverance? Are there such things as spells? Can one pray straightaway for deliverance or does one need both careful discernment and adequate preparation? How can one then pray for effective deliverance? Why are there apparent failures in this ministry? Does deliverance end with the prayer itself or is there need of after care and follow-up? Who can or should pray for deliverance? These are some of the questions that will be dealt with by world experts in the ministry of deliverance, drawing their teachings from Catholic Theology and supported by their wide pastoral experience in various cultures.

Participants? Open to all clergy, and also for lay people who have had some experience in, or feel called to be involved in the Ministry of Deliverance. These may be sponsored or sent by their bishops, their NSC's, or Prayer Communities. Other participants should at least have some recommendation from their parish priest or prayer group leader.

Organised by? The International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services.

Conducted by? Fr. Rufus Pereira, ICCRS member coordinating the Ministries of Healing and Deliverance world wide and Vice-President of the International Association of Exorcists and President of the International Association for Deliverance, and a special team on behalf of ICCRS.

More info... For further information and for registration, please, contact the ICCRS Office or visit our web site. 

Doug Cherry : a man of God

by Henri Lemay

Doug Cherry died suddenly Friday, October 20, 2000 in Halifax, Canada. He was 73. Doug is survived by his wife, Helen. They have eight children and 14 grandchildren. He was employed by Coopers & Lybrand as a Chartered Accountant from 1953 till his retirement. He became a partner in the firm in charge of the Halifax office. All through his adult life, Doug served the local community in many civic organizations. He was active in his support of the Diocesan and Universal Church. He is remembered for his faithful service and dedication to the Lord, his family and many others.

Today we remember him especially for his service in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Doug has served the Renewal in his typically quiet but affirmative way on diocesan and national service committees in Canada. He was chairman for the Atlantic Service Committee, regrouping four provinces of Canada, for several years. The Lord also called Doug to serve Him on the ICCRS Council.

Doug was an outstanding member of the ICCRS Council. He was one of the two voices of ICCRS to North America for over 10 years. His influence on Council was felt often. His voice was raised in retaining the Catholic Charismatic Office in Rome at the Vatican. Each year, as the Council met with the Holy Father, Doug was there to testify to him of the magnificent graces God was pouring out on the Renewal worldwide. Some of these meetings with John Paul II lasted well over one hour.

Doug helped the Council identify its priorities, its aims and objectives. The high point of Doug's involvement came when the Vatican recognized ICCRS. In 1993, Bishop Paul J. Cordes, Vice President, and Eduardo Cardinal Pironio, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, signed the following Decree:

Appreciating the aims of the ICCRS of "service and promotion of the CCR all over the world, under the Holy Spirit's action", having "a special concern for the faithfulness to the Catholic Church of

charismatic renewal participants, both individuals and groups, (...) in continuing and strengthening a more institutional and regular relationship between ICCRS and the Holy See, (...) Comforted by the positive testimonies given by many Cardinals and Bishops concerning the service rendered by ICCRS in the communion and mission of the Church, (...) **the Pontifical Council for the Laity Decrees** the recognition of ICCRS as a body for the promotion of the CCR. (...)"

When Doug's tenure on ICCRS was over in 1994, the Council asked him to remain as the Financial Advisor. Till his death, he continued to give expert advice on budgetary issues, helping ICCRS through financially troubled times so that ICCRS could carry out its Church-given mandate around the world.

His gentle, soft, wise presence will be sorely missed by all. Our prayers accompany him, his dear wife, Helen and his family. The ICCRS Council members and Office staff extend their sincere condolences to his family. 

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

CANADA

Musicians in the CCR gathered last July in Delta, British Columbia, for a musicians' workshop. Participants representing music ministries from nine different prayer groups within the Archdiocese of Vancouver attended this second annual workshop, which is designed to strengthen, unify and consolidate the vocation of service in music within the body of Christ. The music of worship and praise is founded on Scriptural teachings and the model of service established on traditional practices from the Old Testament. At the workshop many testimonies were given, attesting to "sudden unprecedented ability to play an instrument; compose spiritual songs and being able to sing in tune". This ability to produce music in the absence of any natural talent, truly attests to God's gift of music to His people, given for the purpose of worship and praise of our God.

ITALY

On the theme "I am the real vine..." (Jn 15:1-11) the group "Gesù Amore" organized an extraordinary Congress, last September, for Northern Italy. The main speaker was Fr. Serafino Falvo, founder leader of the group. More than one thousand people attended the meeting which took place over a weekend. It was attended by members of other charismatic groups, also. Alongside the talks and Masses, time for Eucharistic adoration and for sharing was included in the programme.

NIGERIA

The 7th National Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria took place in Jos from 7th - 10th September 2000 with a huge crowd of participants drawn from all the 45 dioceses of Nigeria. The conference opened with Mass celebrated by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. A. Kaigama, the Archbishop of Jos with several Priests concelebrating. The theme of the

conference was "Jesus The Triumphant King Of Ages". The conference was organized to celebrate the Great Jubilee Year as a charismatic family in Nigeria. Highlights of the Conference included various talks by seasoned bishops, priests and lay speakers, a penitential service, Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament and Mass for the sick and the needy celebrated by His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Ayo Maria Atoyebi, O.P. Miracles of healing among various sick people manifested during the Mass. Mark Nimo was present to represent ICCRS and to deliver a talk on "The Challenges of the CCR in the new millennium". Several priests, religious and seminarians attended the conference.

RWANDA

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rwanda is growing little by little despite the many difficulties due especially to poverty. Last year the National meeting for training leaders was followed by nearly 100 leaders. The meeting was centered on the origin and the growth of the CCR worldwide and especially on the characteristics and structure of groups and prayer meetings in Rwanda. There was also a section on communities. Some decisions were taken regarding criteria for charismatic prayer and especially on how to deal with members of other religions coming to a prayer meeting. During last year, formation of leaders went step by step with the development of a project for the organization of welcome during seminars and meetings. Bicycles have

been bought, to have the possibility to visit members of groups on a regular basis. A project of editing a newsletter, to let people know what the Lord is doing in the various groups of the diocese, is going on.

SPAIN

Under the *motto* "Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!" the XXII Spanish National Assembly was celebrated last July. Over five thousand brothers and sisters, including one hundred priests, gathered to glorify the Holy Trinity with joy. Among the speakers were Nikol Baldacchino, member of the ICCRS Council, Fr. Manuel Rodriguez, from Peru, and Fr. Manolo Tercero, a member of the Spanish National Committee. The conclusion to this national retreat on this Jubilee year was a strong call to conversion from sin and a complete glorification of God in our life.

YAI FESTIVAL

Two thousand seven hundred young people from 32 different nations participated in Youth Arise International four days festival/conference, in Turin, Italy. We had anointed speakers such as Ralph Martin, Fr Tom Forrest, Padre Raniero Cantalameesa to address the plenary sessions. We also had a number of speakers addressing workshops, Christian bands, singers and international mime groups which made the conference a very pleasant and vibrant festival going on until the early hours of the morning. The priests said they had witnessed major conversions as they heard confessions. This was a rewarding

comment for us. At the end of the festival, we travelled in a long caravan of buses and coaches from Turin to Rome. It was a kind of a pilgrimage until we arrived for the World Youth Day. Through a previous arrangement with the WYD, all those who participated in the YAI Festival were allocated a big venue in Rome hence we continued living the experience of Turin together in this venue at the Fiera di Roma. As any WYDs it was very taxing but truly rewarding for all of us present. 

**Do you want to serve the Lord internationally for 1 or 2 years?
Do you speak languages? Do you have experience with computers and Internet?**

If yes, we are looking for you!

ICCRS is looking for full time volunteers for the ICCRS office in Rome.

The people must speak English plus other languages fluently.

Either Spanish, and/or French and/or Italian is needed.

If you are interested in serving Jesus in the Charismatic Renewal worldwide,

please forward your CV to the ICCRS office. Please include the following: language skills, computer knowledge, Internet experience, working ethics, marital status, education etc.

In addition, please, send a letter of recommendation from your NSC or Community leader.

You could be chosen to serve the Charismatics worldwide in Vatican City... We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please keep in mind that ICCRS is a non-profit organization. Therefore, ICCRS can only offer a small monthly stipend for living expenses.