

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Healing through the Eucharist

—BY FR. PETER B. COUGHLIN—

In every Mass we pray, '...only say the word and I shall be healed.' In the Scriptures we are frequently told about the miracles and healings, the signs and the works of Jesus and His disciples. We are encouraged to have 'expectant faith' that the same Jesus is continually ministering to us through the power and action of the Holy Spirit as hearts are touched, lives are renewed and transformed, people are given hope, courage, and encouragement as needs are met, prayers are answered and faith comes alive.

Intimacy with God is the kiss of God's presence wherein the heart of God is revealed, where we receive a foretaste of glory, a glimpse of the heavenly ecstasy. We are kissed by the love of God. We enter the secret place of the Most High, His presence, and drink deeply from the wellspring of His salvation. As the deer longs for the water so we long for the Lord. We pour out our hearts to Him, give Him first place, develop a sensitivity to His presence, His mystery. We yield to the God of surprises, give Him control, press deeply into His presence. We offer Him real, genuine, vulnerable, heart-felt, persistent prayer. We approach Him with an expectant heart, overwhelmed by His presence. He is our Beloved, Life itself, the Baptizer, the Healer, the wholly desirable one, the heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus.

Intimacy is a relationship with another that flows from a depth of knowledge and understanding that is shared by no one but the two individuals. It requires making choices and taking risks. It involves disclosure, revealing the real you, your innermost self, your hidden thoughts, feelings, emotions, needs. It requires honesty, transparency before the Lord.

Who is your Beloved? The one who invites you to discover a depth of relationship you never dreamed existed. It is secure, settled, secret. It is that place of relationship, knowledge and love of Jesus,

Jesus who heals, sets free, makes new.

More and more people are approaching Jesus in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during exposition, finding peace, intimacy, transformation and healing, from just being in His presence.

Everywhere people are going to Jesus at what are called Masses with prayer for healing. There is expectancy and people are healed, restored, cured of their infirmities and set free from their depressions, fears and burdens as they approach to receive prayer for healing. But the Lord can and does heal with sovereignty. He may do it at any point during the liturgy, before, during or after.

Indeed, in every Mass there is healing because the Lord is always doing His works.

Personally, I have been involved in healing ministry since 1972 and I have witnessed countless miracles and healings through the ministry of Jesus. It is my great joy to be involved in this ministry of healing and I find that my particular ministry is to encourage expectant faith and to empower people to pray for healing.

Often I minister through the Eucharist by preaching about Jesus who heals, giving some of my own life experiences and then dealing with some of the many blocks to receiving the Lord's healing action. These include: unforgiveness, a sense of unworthiness, fear, misunderstandings about redemptive suffering, and about offering it up, a sense of rejection, focusing on the problem rather than on the Lord and control issues.

People need to receive prayer when they are ready to receive, not when they are focused on their needs. We encounter the healing Lord in the

mystery of the Eucharist and then pray specifically for healing at the end of the celebration once we have turned from sin, focused on Jesus and received Him in communion. We allow Him to speak the word that heals us, we give Him permission to do so.

Frequently, in my ministry I teach people to pray for healing as follows.

First I have them get in groups of three and number off 1-2-3. Then I tell No. 1 that he/she will receive prayer for healing, No. 2 to lead the prayer, and No. 3 to support the prayer. Next I instruct the group: No. 1 to tell 2 and 3 what the need for healing is: No. 2 and No. 3 to lay a hand lightly on the shoulder of No. 1. I instruct No. 1 to focus on the Lord, using their imagination to picture Jesus reaching out to heal them; giving Jesus permission to do the healing; and then to receive, not to pray, just receive. No. 3 ministers the love of God and a healing touch, supporting the prayer of No. 2. No. 2 ministers the power of the Word of God with authority. Both Nos. 2 and 3 are to be open to vision or a word of encouragement, prophecy or word of wisdom/knowledge for the person for whom they just prayed.

Then after sharing the word or vision they change places till each has had a turn at receiving prayer, leading prayer and supporting prayer. The prayer led by No. 2 focuses on Jesus as the healer. A scripture on healing is brought to mind, then Jesus is asked to heal through the power of the Spirit. This is followed then by the word of authority; in the name of Jesus Christ, be healed (set free, restored, made whole) for the Father's glory, the person's blessing, and the blessing of those they serve (i.e. the reasons for the healing).

There are many ways to lead healing ministry. But remember that Jesus is the healer. The more we are in intimate relationship the more the power of the Spirit is evident in our lives. The more we approach Jesus with expectant faith the more healing we receive through the Eucharist.



ICCRS Council met in Mexico

by Oreste Pesare

The greatest news for the new millennium is that the ICCRS Council decided to restart having its annual meetings – after nearly fifteen years – in different parts of the world. So, from 11th to 17th March ICCRS Councillors met in Monterrey, Mexico. This Mexican experience was totally positive for both the ICCRS members and the Mexican Charismatic Renewal.

From now on the ICCRS Council will alternate its meetings: every two years in Rome, to maintain contacts with the Holy See, and in intermediate years in one of the countries where the local CCR will be willing to offer ICCRS support and welcome. The ICCRS Council actually gathered in Monterrey because of a special invitation offered by the local NSC which covered all the expenses of Councillors for both travelling and accommodation. The meeting gave the Mexican NSC the opportunity to make a presentation to ICCRS on the International Priests' Retreat they are organizing, to be held next November in Monterrey; a retreat for which the Mexican NSC asked ICCRS for moral support and co-operation. This was assured by the ICCRS Council. So, on March 11th and 12th the ICCRS Council met with a group of servant leaders involved in the organization of this Retreat.

ICCRS identity in serving the CCR

Following the guidelines of the Pope's message for the Great Gathering in Rimini 2000 and the PCL suggestions, the ICCRS Council reflected on its identity in serving the CCR. According to the Pope's message, ICCRS should be an organization whose task is "to coordinate and promote exchange of experiences and reflections among Catholic Charismatic Communities throughout the world". CCR is diversified in its components (prayer groups, communities, ministries, schools of evangelization, associations and organizations...) but it is important that ICCRS serves all these realities and fosters communion amongst them.

Instruction on prayers for healing

Time was spent sharing about the last Instruction published by the Pontifical Congregation for the Faith on prayers for healing. On this matter ICCRS will co-operate with the PCL in organizing a very special Colloquium that will be held in Rome next November. About one hundred and thirty-five key leaders and specialists in the healing ministry have received an invitation for the meeting from the PCL. The proceedings of this Colloquium will be published.

Deliverance Seminar in Malta

Fr. Rufus Pereira presented topics for the Seminar on Deliverance that will be organized by ICCRS on Oct 30th – Nov 4th, 2001 in Malta. The programme is both a Seminar Conference and a training school. It will be an important task of the Council members to promote this very special event.

Toronto World Youth Day

The Council approved the constitution of a Sub-committee to consider the opportunity to have an ICCRS event during the WYD to be held in Toronto, Canada on July 18th to 29th, 2002.

Project Fund

Requests for financial support came from 15 different projects. The Council was able to approve only six among them: \$ 2,000 for a Summer Bible School to be held in Granada, Eternal Light Community; \$ 2,000 for a Bible School and a School of Evangelization to be held in Trinidad & Tobago; \$ 4,000 for a Francophone African Congress in Cameroun; \$ 1,457 for a 2 week School of Evangelization in Benin; \$ 2,800 for 5 delegates from the Indian NSC to participate in the Malta Conference on Deliverance; \$ 38,000 to support the Colloquium on healing organized with Pontifical Council for Laity. The total approved was \$ 50,257.

Financial report

One of the biggest difficulties for ICCRS is the decline in offerings from

the NSCs and the other charismatic communities and expressions. However the results were better than expectations despite a loss of 166 millions of Lira. The Office worked well to spend shrewdly and keep expenses below budget.

Office report

The ICCRS web site is now ready in Spanish and Italian. Work is going on to produce it in French and Portuguese, too. Four books were produced by ICCRS during the past few years. They are being published in different languages. The Office now has new furniture offered by friends of ICCRS specifically for this purpose. The ICCRS Office now looks much better.

Council Members terms

Matteo Calisi has been confirmed unanimously as Councillor for a third term and he will still act as Vice-President of ICCRS for the next two years. Fr. Michael Slavik (from Czech Republic) was elected to substitute Bp. Bronislaw Dembowski. Bp. Joe Grech (from Australia) was elected to substitute Allan Panozza – our current President – as representative for Oceania. The terms of Mark Nimo, Nikol Baldacchino and Henri Lemay have been extended until next November. Charles Whitehead has been designated new Financial advisor for a term of three years. He will take the place of our beloved Doug Cherry, departed last October 20th, 2000.

Next Council Meeting

This will be held in Rome from the evening of Saturday 9th, to Saturday 16th March 2002. The Council will have also a short meeting between the Malta event and the Healing Colloquium in Rome on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th November, 2001.

The ICCRS Council concluded its meeting in Monterrey with a nice dinner offered by the Mexican NSC. It was an occasion to celebrate Bp. Dembowski – at his last meeting – and our wonderful hosts.

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Fourth International Retreat for Priests and Bishops

The Mexican Catholic Charismatic Renewal (MCCR), together with the support of the CONCCLAT and ICCRS, extends its invitation to all priests and bishops to participate in the Fourth International Retreat for Priests and Bishops to be held in Monterrey, Mexico during the week of November 5-9, 2001.

For the past twenty-five years, the MCCR has held a yearly retreat for priests and bishops. Initially this was a national event and fifty priests attended. Afterwards, the retreat was held on a yearly basis, and eventually more than five hundred priests attended annually.

In 1992 the MCCR felt it was being called upon by the Holy Spirit to share the charism of its retreats by inviting priests and bishops from other countries. During the 1992 retreat, Mexico was granted the grace of receiving more than 1,400 priests and 83 bishops who came from twenty-five countries such as North America, Spain, Portugal and the Philippine Islands to name a few. This experience was repeated in 1994 and in 1998. In 1998

more than 1,700 clergy attended the retreat, including bishops from India and Africa. In each of these retreats we heard the testimonials of a great many priests and bishops. The blessed results of those retreats are what have encouraged us to continue inviting participants from around the globe.

The history of the country of Mexico has been deeply touched by the presence of Our Blessed Mother—the Virgin of Guadalupe who appeared to the Indian, Juan Diego, in 1532. Mary our mother brought Jesus to thousands of indigenous souls. Our bishops consider that this was to be seen as a new Pentecost for America (cfr. “*Del encuentro con Jesucristo a la solidaridad con todos*”, n.427 CEM). We profoundly feel that it is Mary herself, through her special maternal presence, who is calling her sons to live the events of these retreats for priests.

We therefore ask you to invite the bishops and priests of your country to accompany us in Monterrey, Mexico from November 5-9, 2001. Registration is via the internet at: www.iccrs.org or www.renovacion.com.mx/retiro

A donation of \$100 U.S. dollars is requested. If you wish, a larger quantity may be donated so as to help those priests with limited economic resources. Bishops will be given financial support for partial payment of transportation costs (please check for information through the above mentioned websites). All those attending will be hosted in the homes of local families, and all meals are included. English, French and Italian translations will be available.

Continuous intercessory prayer will be offered for the retreat. Each of sixty participants dioceses of Mexico will offer nine days of twenty-four hour prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. If you are able to help us with your prayers, please let us know at the following e-mail address:

informes@renovacion.com.mx

Please join together with us in prayer as we ask our Lord Jesus: “May all those who participate in the retreat receive the gift of Baptism in the Holy Spirit”.

Miguel Mendoza,
National Coordinator
Mexican CCR



BE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR THE MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

by participating in the International Seminar on Deliverance at Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea

from 30 October pm to 4 November am 2001

What the participants can expect from this Seminar:

1. A clear and precise **knowledge** about all important aspects of this ministry;
2. Some practical **training** in the basics of praying for deliverance;
3. The opportunity of being **prayed over** by the worldwide charismatic fellowship to receive clearer guidance, greater power and allied charisms from the Holy Spirit for their ministry;
4. An exciting fellowship in **mutual sharing** of experiences in their ministry;
5. The assurance of mutual **prayerful support** in this demanding but necessary ministry;
6. A deeper conviction of the necessity of working always **in a team**, and always **under the authority** and direction of the Church, through the local bishop;
7. A **zeal** for this ministry as we walk in the footsteps of St. Paul through the island of signs and wonders.

What the ICCRS Council and the Deliverance Seminar Team would welcome from participants (by 1 August 2001):

1. A brief description of the present state of the ministry in their area;
2. The names and addresses of those who are well known in this ministry in their region;
3. Copies of books and other literature (including official statements and articles) on deliverance published in their countries for display during the Seminar;
4. Personal testimonies of deliverance in their ministry;
5. Suggestions of topics to be included in the program and specific questions that need to be answered during the Seminar;
6. In general their expectations from this Seminar.

N.B. Participants are free to organise in groups, either before or after the Malta Experience, a pilgrimage to Rome,

the Apostolic City of the victorious martyrdom of Peter (1Pet 5:8,9) and Paul (Eph 6:12,13), and the Papal See of Pope John Paul II, who reminded us in 1985, “The Church shares in Christ’s victory over the devil: Christ, in fact, gave his disciples the authority to cast out demons. The Church exercises such victorious power through faith in Christ and prayer, which in specific cases, can assume the form of exorcism”.

For “the Son of God came to destroy the devil’s work” (1Jn 3:8).



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Australia

Over 140 potential leaders have attended a new and specially designed Leadership Formation Programme, to foster the leadership of CCR and to ensure the continued vitality of the Renewal. The programme was held from February 21st to April 25th in Melbourne. It was an exciting task to reflect on the needs of the Renewal today and to meet the need for future leadership. The sessions over ten weeks included: introduction to leadership, qualification of a leader, meaning of discipleship, spirituality of a leader, shepherding and pastoral care, evaluation and celebration. It was a requirement of the course that participants study the two ICCRS publications: *The Vocation of a Leader - Called, Gifted and Sent* and *Charismatic Renewal: a Grace, a Challenge and a Mission*, which are considered a vital component of the course programme and an indispensable tool in Leadership Formation.

Botswana

Recently, a meeting of Conclaa (Consultation of Catholic Charismatic Leaders in Anglophone Africa) was held in Botswana. Eleven nations were represented: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and Nigeria. The absence of the other nations continues to be a pain: these are nations that are experiencing wars and other conflicts. A special feature of this gathering was the time dedicated to intercession and spiritual warfare for the continent of Africa. It was generally perceived in all nations that there is an increase in the practice of the occult in schools and sometimes even in parishes. Nonetheless, numbers continue to grow in many prayer groups, while new prayer groups are being formed. Some nations have experienced phenomenal increases to as many as 1,000 in weekly attendance at a prayer meeting. The need to train and equip leaders who will pastor these groups is becoming more and more a concern for NSCs.

Indonesia

After two years of silence about the CCR on account of the instability of the socio-political situation, Indonesia was finally able to hold another CCR National Conference last June 2000, preceded by a Priests' Spiritual Retreat. This is

a sign that the political situation is gradually stabilizing in the country. By June 2001 there will be a Regional Conference in Surabaya with special sessions for youth and priests. This is one of the ways to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the origin of CCR in Indonesia. Christians in general, and Charismatics in particular, are presently facing increasing difficulties in practicing their faith in a predominantly Islamic nation, where Islamic fundamentalists are on the rise.

Italy

Last March, at the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, a national Conference on Family was organized, on the occasion of the feast of saint Joseph, patron of families. Matteo Calisi, Vice-president of ICCRS, gave a contribution on the theme "The Christian family in the third millennium", a thoughtful analysis of the current contest between the civil and religious sections of Italian society, considering the Magisterium of Pope John Paul II and the experience of the Ccr. At the meeting a large number of politicians, bishops, ambassadors and journalists were present.

Mali

Last November a sub-regional meeting of the Charismatic Renewal in West Francophone Africa was held in Mali. People from Benin, Burkina-Faso, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Togo and Ivory Coast attended the meeting. The theme of the Conference was "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Mt

28:19). Communion, fellowship, prayer and sharing were experienced from all the participants. The opening Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Jean Zerbo, of Bamako. In his homily he encouraged the Ccr in its vocation to evangelize. He also rejoiced in considering the practice of giving thanks to the Lord, a powerful practice in the Renewal. He told all the participants his hope that all the Christian people could become a people of praise. During the evenings a time for sharing was an occasion to exchange different experiences which raised up both the joys and the difficulties met during service and mission.

Panama

Last February, from 8th to 11th, an event was held in Panama, organized by the "Santa Teresa de Jesús" Community. The XXII CCR Youth Meeting gathered more than 9,000 people from around Panama and even from Costa Rica. It was a challenge to allocate and give food to all these young people and we can truly say we had a miracle! For twenty-two years we have been witnessing so many blessings from God during these meetings. Let us give thanks to Him for gathering all these people who freely choose to come and joyfully go back home giving Glory to God.

Vatican

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Pontifical Council for the Laity has again set out its approach to dialogue and collaboration between ecclesial movements and new communities. Two of a long series of meetings have already occurred and founders and presidents of the main international Catholic movements met to exchange and share their different experiences in their service to the unique mission of the Church. Among the representatives of movements there were Chiara Lubich (Focolari movement), Andrea Riccardi (St. Egidio Community), Jesus Carascosa (Communion and Liberation movement), Matteo Calisi (ICCRS) and representatives of other communities and associations. In the near future the Pcl has plans to organize some meetings to reflect on the role of movements in ecumenism and interreligious dialogue and on the challenge of the new evangelization led by movements in the former USSR and other ex-communist countries.

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