

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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“*Due in altum*”: a new challenge for the Charismatic Renewal

BY ALLAN PANOZZA

When I was a boy growing up, one of my favourite pastimes was fishing. Often I would get up before dawn, and spend hours sitting on one of the piers that jutted out into the large bay on which my hometown was situated. Sometimes I would come home with great excitement, proudly bearing four or five small fish, which my Dad would clean and prepare, and my mother would cook and serve that evening.

As I grew older I was allowed to go out fishing with a neighbour who owned a small rowing boat. Now a whole new world was suddenly opened before me. No longer was I constrained to sitting on a pier hoping that the fish might come to me. Now we could range freely across the vast expanse of Corio Bay, and we could even go out into the deep water where the big fish were feeding, and where my expectations for a large catch might be fulfilled. Indeed this is what began to happen. Now I would return home from these expeditions, sometimes with difficulty in carrying all the fish I had caught. The new problem was no longer that there were not enough fish to share amongst the family, but rather, to whom could we give away all the fish I now brought home? And they were not the small fish which had frequented the end of the pier, but they were big fish which sometimes I even had difficulty reeling in.

One day Jesus found himself so overwhelmed by the size of the crowd which had gathered to hear him teach, that he sat down in the fishing boat of Simon, and putting out a little from the shore of the lake, he began to teach the people from there.

When he had finished what he wanted to say he invited Simon to “put out into the deep for a catch” “*Due in altum*” (Lk5: 4). As experienced fishermen, Peter and his companions would have known that this was an unlikely possibility, but now they must make a decision. Should they put their faith in their experience as professionals, or risk their faith in the words of a man who was not a fisherman but clearly had some extraordinary power to

touch the hearts of those who flocked to listen to him.

I think that the Charismatic Renewal faces the same choice today. Although in many ways the world which is ours with its vast knowledge and technology is hardly comparable to that of the Apostles, nevertheless we live in a time of uncertainty and fear which is not unlike that which the people of Israel faced in the time of Jesus. They also felt the heavy hand of “terrorism”, as they laboured under the weight of fundamentalist oppression from their religious leaders. At the same time they were subject to living under the heel of a conquering invader. To these people Jesus brought the good news that the God of their fathers still loved them, and had not abandoned them. Jesus brought a new and radical call for them to have faith in him, and manifested his power to heal and to meet the needs of those who trusted him. Jesus even gave back life where there was death, and he offered eternal life to all who had the courage to reach out for it. Jesus brought a message of hope and the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus invited his followers to “put out into the deep”.

In his Apostolic Letter “*Novo Millennio Ineunte*” Pope John Paul II recalls the joy which flooded the Church during the Jubilee Year 2000. He described the measure of grace as being like “a river of living water continually flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (cf. Rev 22:1). It is clear that the Holy Father saw the Great Jubilee as being highly significant.

He wrote in this document “...From the beginning of my Pontificate, my thoughts had been on the Holy Year 2000 as an important appointment. I thought of its celebration as a providential opportunity during which the Church, thirty five years after the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, would examine how far she had renewed herself, in order to be able to take up her evangelising mission with fresh enthusiasm...”

As President of ICCRS I must tell you that my thoughts are focused now on this time of grace for the world wide Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and our need for fresh enthusiasm. I believe that the Lord is giving us a unique opportunity right now to “put out into the deep”,

where his promise not to catch fish but men will be fully realised. For many years now I have listened to people saying that they are awaiting “a new wave of the Holy Spirit”. I do not spend time waiting for that because I believe that we are already living in that “new wave”, or as I would rather describe it, “this time of new opportunity given us by the Holy Spirit”.

Following Vatican II Almighty God did not unleash upon the Church this new outpouring of power and grace, only to see it slowly diminish and die out. No! On the contrary he continues to motivate us through that same Holy Spirit to “contemplate the Face of Jesus Christ.” As Pope John Paul reminds us in this document, that Face may be bruised and bloodied on the Cross, but it is also the Face of the Risen One to whom the Church now looks as we stand at the threshold of the New Millennium. Nor is this the time for the Charismatic Renewal to worry about problems, or whether or not our numbers are growing within the Church. I believe that now is the time for us to look at the Face of Jesus who is our source of New Life, and to remain open to his grace being poured out through the Holy Spirit.

To you who are leaders in the Charismatic Renewal, I exhort you to see these days as being a time of extraordinary opportunity. I challenge you to make a decision right now to untie your boat from the safe and placid waters near the pier, and put out into the deep channel where the current is swiftly running. Sure, the waters look dark and are deep and the wind out there blows strongly, but be ready to harvest the fish. However, let me caution you! Even as you are hauling in the catch do not focus on it, - on how big the fish are or, what kind are they? - focus only on the Face of Jesus.

In the motivating power which we have received through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, may I affirm you in the words of St. Paul “...fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self control...” (2 Tim 1:6-7). Good fishing! 

ICCRS Council met last November

by *Oeste Pesare*

The ICCRS Council held another annual Council Meeting at "Santuario Madonna del Divino Amore" in Rome. This Council Meeting was held from November 4th-9th, 2001 prior to the International Colloquium on 'Prayer for Healing and the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church.' Since this Colloquium was scheduled for November 10th-13th, 2001 in Rome, the Councillors decided to take full advantage of this special gathering by adding a Council Meeting before the Colloquium officially began. Hence, the scheduled Council Meeting for March 2002 will no longer take place.

The first two days of the Council Meeting consisted of prayer, reflection on lectures given by Council members, and a time to enjoy each other's company. The following days covered the following business:

A. Reports

Financial Report. The ICCRS Condensed Operating Fund Results (as of September 2001) was read in the assembly. There was also a discussion concerning the difficulties of those countries which have not been able to give what had been expected.

Office report. Subscriptions to the ICCRS Newsletter have been increasing these past few months. Also, the office is now sending the ICCRS Newsletter by e-mail. Lots of ICCRS books were sold and mailed all over the world this year – alleluia! We now have our web page in Portuguese.

Project Fund. The office received nine requests and they have been submitted to the Project Fund Sub-committee. Four of them have been accepted and given funds from the Council: 1) \$1,800 US for a healing and deliverance seminar in Lithuania; 2) \$1,500 US for international praise & worship workshop teams in West Africa; 3) \$1,200 US for translations of books about the CCR - in Romania; 4) \$3,500 US for

an event in Nairobi, Kenya.

Thus, the total amount that was accepted for proposals = \$8,000 US.

B. Committees

Finance Committee. Allan will continue to be the Chairman of the Finance Committee for the next twelve months. After that period, the newly elected Councillors will consider a new Finance Committee at their first meeting.

Executive Committee. Cathy Brenti will substitute Erni Wiethaeuper for the next twelve months. Then for the Council Meeting in 2003, a new Committee will be constituted.

C. Terms of office and new elections

Erni Wiethaeuper will finish his first term next March. *Reinaldo Bezerra Dos Reis*, the current Chairman of the Brazilian NSC, was elected as ICCRS representative for Portuguese speaking Latin America.

Nikol Baldacchino, Mark Nimo and Henri Lemay finished their second term at the last Council Meeting in March. Next March, Fr. Bart Pastor and Jim Murphy will finish their second term.

Councillors submitted names for future representatives for ICCRS. From that list, the following people were chosen: *Peter Thompson*, from Canada, is now the representative for French speaking North America. *Mark Nimo* was elected for a third term as representative for English speaking Africa - finishing his term in 2004. *Nikol Baldacchino* will stay in the Council for an extended year due to his involvement in the upcoming European Conference. *Matteo Calisi*, now acting as the representative for Italy, will also represent Southern Europe. *Michelle Moran*, from England, was voted to represent Northern Europe. *Jim Murphy* was elected for a third term to represent ICCRS in English speaking North America. *Nicholas Chia*, from Singapore, was chosen to replace Fr. Bart Pastor to represent ICCRS in Asia. All the new members will officially enter the Council at the next Council Meeting in 2003.

D. Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held from Sunday, February 9th to Saturday, February 15th, 2003 in Argentina. Following the Council Meeting, there will be an organized meeting with all the Latin American leaders.

E. Coming events

Toronto WYD 2002. Council decided to proceed in co-operating with YAI in preparing an event during WYD 2002.

2003 Retreat and Pilgrimage in Italy. A proposal for a retreat followed by a pilgrimage to Rome and various religious sites in Italy was presented to the Council. It will consist of a two-day colloquium of NSC's and other key leaders from CCR realities, a four-day retreat and then a five-day pilgrimage. The Council decided to form a Committee to prepare a budget and to work on the programme for the above pilgrimage.

International Conference on Charismatic Evangelisation and Lay Leadership Formation. The Council appointed a Sub-Committee to study a proposal for regional conferences for leaders involved in Schools of Evangelization. The first will be held in Asia/Oceania, maybe in 2003.

A closing Council session took place the day after the Colloquium ended. Matters regarding the Colloquium and to finalize elections of new members for the ICCRS Council were discussed.

An informal meeting took place the morning of Wednesday, November 14th in adjoining to the Colloquium. The ICCRS Council presided over the meeting along with some leaders that attended the International Colloquium. The conclusion of the meeting is that ICCRS will send some questions to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith through the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Allan will write a letter to Card. James Stafford, President of the PCL on this matter. 

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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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ICCRS Council members:

Mr. Allan Panozza, Australia (President)

Mr. Matteo Calisi, Italy (Vice President)

Mr. Nikol Baldacchino, Malta

Mrs. Cathy Brenti, France

Bp. Joe Grech, Australia

Mr. Henri Lemay, Canada

Mr. James Murphy, USA

Mr. Mark Nimo, Ghana

Fr. Bart Pastor, Philippines

Fr. Rufus Pereira, India

Mr. Jean Pliya, Benin

Fr. Michael Slavik, Czech Republic

Mr. Telesforo "Chiquito" Villalba, Argentina

Mr. Erni Wiethaeuper, Brazil

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Mr. Oeste Pesare, Italy

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Administration and events: Mr. Claude Lopez, Australia

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ICCRS announces...

1st continental gathering and pilgrimage

September 24-29, 2002

"Europe, put out into the deep"

5-day gathering of European leaders and intercessors from the CCR in Czestochowa, Poland

1-day pilgrimage to Auschwitz and the Sanctuary of God's Mercy, St. Faustina Convent in Cracow

This event, at the beginning of the new millennium, will put out into the deep of John Paul II's new letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte" Imploring together as Catholic Charismatics of Europe a "fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit" for this Continent for "the renewal of the Church, the unity of Christianity and the renewal of society"...

Tell your leaders and intercessors!!!

11 days of blessing in October 2003

a 2-day gathering of key leaders from National Service Committees, Covenant Communities, and many streams within CCR

a 4-day retreat in the Rome area.

The retreat will be based on John Paul II's exciting letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte"!

a 5-day pilgrimage to some of the key holy sites in Italy:

- **San Giovanni Rotondo (The site of Padre Pio)**
- **Cave of St. Michael (one of the most famous sanctuaries in Europe in the history of pilgrimages)**
- **Loreto (Mary's Holy House)**
- **Lanciano (miracle of the Eucharist)**
- **Assisi (the town of St. Francis)**
- **Various sites in Rome**

Tell your friends!!!

Mark your calendar!

Watch the ICCRS Newsletter and web site for all details!

Pioneers in the Charismatic Renewal: Ralph Martin

Even though I was raised a Catholic I began to have doubts as I came closer to university age and was affected by the confusion of the 1960's. The Lord had mercy on me though and a few months before I graduated from the University of Notre Dame a friend invited me to make a Cursillo. On the Cursillo I encountered the Lord and received his call to conversion and mission and by God's grace was able to respond. And nothing has been the same ever since!

Friends of ours were on that famous "Duquesne weekend" during which the charismatic renewal in the Catholic Church began and the rest is history.

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA where I was living developed into a center for the renewal in the US and soon we were receiving correspondence and visitors from all over the world. An informal international communication center grew up which was formalized in the early 1970's and called the ICO (International Communication Office). When Cardinal

Suenens invited me to move to Belgium to work with him we brought the international office with us. We were in Belgium from 1976-1980. By this time the name had changed to ICCRO (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office) and we had not only an international office but also an international Council of which I was the first chairman. As we prepared to return to the US the office continued its journey, this time to Rome, under the capable leadership of Fr. Tom Forrest and Fr. Fio Mascarenhas.

Upon my return to the US I started a Catholic renewal and evangelization organization called Renewal Ministries, with which I continue to work. We are working now in more than 20 different countries and continue to produce a weekly television program and a daily radio program which are broadcast throughout North America and in many other parts of the world as well.

Having obtained a masters in theology degree a number of years ago I

am teaching part-time at three different Catholic institutions (Franciscan University of Steubenville, the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Detroit, and Ave Maria College, a new Catholic college here in the Ann Arbor area) in the area of spirituality as well as doing my work in leading Renewal Ministries. I am very inspired by Pope John Paul II's vision for the Church as we enter into the third millennium, and want to do my part to help our parishes become "schools of prayer" and training places for holiness!

The Lord has blessed my wife Anne and myself with 1 boy and 5 girls over the years and with two grandchildren, now that our oldest daughter is married.

It's been an amazing privilege to be part of this great outpouring of the Spirit all these years and it's certainly true: the best is yet to come!

More information about Ralph's work is available on the website: www.renewalministries.net



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Canada

At the National Meeting of the CCRSC reports from different regions brought to light a move of the Holy Spirit in the organization of regional conferences. In Montreal their conference included French, English, Italian and Spanish speaking groups. In Ontario and Alberta similar conferences included other ethnic groups into the one body, calling us to unity no matter what cultural background we come from. The Lord through documents such as "Ecclesia in America" and our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is moving us to be one as the Father and Son are one!

Guatemala

Last October, in Guatemala, the local Catholic Charismatic Renewal organized a vigil of prayer for youth. This vigil, that lasted all the night long, gathered more than 3,000 young people who prayed to the Lord, praised, gave testimonies, preached, celebrated Mass together, had a time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a time for praying to Mary and a concert of Christian music. For more than twelve hours, young people were united in praying and praising the Lord. This vigil was a preamble to the great vigil for peace organized in Central America every year, a gathering of more than 40,000 from all the countries of this area.

Tanzania

In August 2001, a seminar on deliverance was organized in Dar-es-Salaam, a seminar conducted by Fr. Rufus Pereira. We expected about 100 participants, but at the end about 700 turned out! It was a very good seminar. The teaching was excellent and the response very good. Just after the Seminar more than 500 delegates from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Malawi participated in the Arusha Prayer Summit (APS), a full week of prayers of intercession for all the countries of the continent of Africa, especially Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Father Rufus Pereira together with Mrs Kim Kollins from Germany facilitated the whole week. They were assisted by local leaders of the Charismatic Renewal in Tanzania.

Vatican

The Pontifical Council for the Laity, with the collaboration of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, convened the International Colloquium on Prayer for Healing and the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church in Rome. The PCL President, James Francis Cardinal Stafford, presided over the assembly of some 87 invited participants mostly from the worldwide CCR and 12 Vatican representatives. The Colloquium specifically focused on the Catholic Church's understanding of the healing ministry, taking the Instruction on Prayer for Healing by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as the basis for the discussions and reflections.

This Colloquium likewise was a momentous venue for the leaders of the CCR to exchange personal experiences in the healing ministry. This was the first time the PCL officially collaborated with the ICCRS on an issue that is of common concern for both. Aside from the official Acts of the Colloquium that will be issued jointly by the PCL and ICCRS, ICCRS has decided to use the materials from this Colloquium to draw up some practical guidelines on the healing ministry for the use of CCR prayer groups, communities and ministries.

A deepened report on this Colloquium will be published on the next issue of the ICCRS Newsletter.

California

The Southern California Renewal Conference was held during the first weekend of September. The beautiful joy of the Holy Spirit was everywhere in evidence and particularly at the large Eucharistic gatherings. The theme was "Nothing is impossible with God!". The various speakers taught on this theme and the Spirit brought to life a tremendous sense of hope, especially in these troubled times. Praise God for the mighty gift of His Holy Spirit!



Poland

The Polish National Conference took place in Czestochowa last May. The main topic was: "mature Christianity". Fr Fio Mascarenhas, from India, was our speaker. The first day, about 1,300 leaders of Polish groups gathered. Bp. Bronislaw Dembowski delivered teachings about building the Church in Polish conditions. And Fr. Fio spoke about mature Christianity, which was based on three "Cs": contemplation, compassion and courage. The next day about 170 thousand people (almost a half of them had come to our National Conference

for the first time) came to pray together. After common worship we had the Eucharist and prayer for healing. The second part consisted of teachings about the sense of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Fr. Fio) and then Fr. Augustyn Pelanowski led the prayer. Everybody left Czestochowa full of joy.

Philippines

John Paul II's message at the Rimini international gathering in the Jubilee Year was: "ICCRS is an organization whose task is to coordinate and encourage an exchange of experiences and reflections

among the Catholic and Charismatic Communities all over the world...". Taking this message as a challenge, the National Service Committee of the CCR in the Philippines feels itself tasked to carry out the *important* role that the Holy Church has entrusted to the CR in the Philippines. During this last few months of the year 2001 and through the year 2002, therefore, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Officers of the NSC-Philippines will be making visits to all the 17 Ecclesiastical Provinces, the Military Ordinariate, and the three Federations of Covenant Communities in the Philippines. These visits will be consultative in nature to find out how the NSC-Philippines can be of assistance to the ecclesiastical Provinces concerned in their attainment of the challenge posed by the Holy Father.

Benin

With the help of Mark Nimo and the Ghanaian National Service Committee, a Paul for Evangelization Course team was in Benin for more than two weeks, last August, under the leadership of Paul Otoo. Jean Pliya, was also present as the ICCRS representative for Francophone Africa. This was the first time that francophone and anglophone areas shared an experience together. There were about 50 participants from Togo, Benin and some Charismatic Communities such as "Pain de Vie", "Emmanuel" and "Beatitudes". A donation from the ICCRS Project Fund helped the course to be a great success.

