

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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"If you say so, I will let down the nets"

BY MICHAEL SLAVÍK

We have celebrated the Great Jubilee. We still have vivid memories of many of its key events, some of which will be written into history as the beginning of new things. It is worthwhile to recall here at least the ecumenical opening of the Holy Door and above all the penitential liturgy during which the pope – in the name of the whole Church – asked for forgiveness for the sins of all its sons and daughters. We could mention many other amazing moments of the Great Jubilee which have meaning either for the whole church or for individual persons.

In these amazing moments of grace we may see a gradual opening of the church that took place during many years of preparation and to which Pope John Paul II invited us at the very beginning of his pontificate in the encyclical *Redemptor hominis*. After that, he did not cease to call us prophetically, so that we would be ready for this moment of exceptional grace which was going to happen for the whole church with the Great Jubilee and which in fact did happen.

We now stand at a high vantage point. A further horizon, the wide ocean of the third millennium of the history of the church, has opened before us. Like Moses we are looking out across this "Promised Land," which we are meant to enter; and in this land we see new challenges and tasks. The church must not enter into the open expanse of the third millennium driven by mere force of habit, but with a consciousness of the mission it received at the beginning from its Lord, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation" (Mark 16, 15). However, we must not overlook the problems and difficulties with which we have arrived at this threshold of a new historical epoch.

In his Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* the Pope does not hesitate to look realistically at the present situation of the church, and he is not afraid to call attention to the unwelcome fact that

in "many parts of the world Christians either are or soon will be a tiny flock" (NMI 36). Even "in traditionally Christian lands, the era of Christian society has come to an end" (NMI 40). At this time, a wide variety of questions come to mind. We ask, for example, how we have failed as Christians? What could we have done differently? We perceive our incapacity to respond to the needs of people around us, and we regard all of this as our failure. It looks as though we have reached the end of the road in many places – as though we have gone down a blind alley from which no roads lead anywhere. At the sight of all this, we can be overcome by faint-heartedness. And in addition we may find ourselves in new and more demanding situations where we have to cope with things that the church has never experienced before. It can truly seem to us that we are like Simon and his companions who exerted all their efforts through the night trying to catch something, but in the morning hauled up empty nets (Luke 5).

Some people in the Charismatic Renewal have this kind of experience. In many communities and groups, which had such a hopeful outlook at the start, a time of scepticism has replaced the years of hopeful beginnings. We recognize that we lack creativity, and have used up our ability to do things. Once again, it is time to remember the ancient and constantly forgotten lesson, or rather invitation, of the Lord, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5, 4). Let us not forget that the Lord does not give this challenge to the disciples at the first sign of their frustration. First the Lord teaches the crowds. Then it is time to

raise His teaching higher with a sign, to which His disciples are to be witnesses and in which they are to be participants. In desolation and weariness the fishermen listen to God's word, the instructions of Jesus; and they face a choice – to believe and obey or to give way to frustration with the way things have developed up to that moment – because their experience so far indicates that it makes no sense to do anything more. However, Simon, later called Peter, mobilizes faith and says, "If you say so, I will let down the nets" (Luke 5, 5).

It is time to mobilize faith once again (see NMI 38). It is time for renewed obedience to God's word. One of the foundational gifts of the Charismatic Renewal is the recognition and experience that the primary originating strength of all fruitful undertakings of a Christian is God's grace. We have received the gift of recognizing and believing in God's power which accompanies the work of a Christian. The most important feature of our Renewal in the Holy Spirit is our unceasing return to the primacy of grace and to the courage of listening to and hearing the word of Jesus, "Put out into the deep." This word speaks to the souls of disciples today just as it did in the past.

It is precisely in our hearts that we bring together the greatest struggles connected with this challenge. It is here that everything is at stake. It is here also that it is easiest to mar or at least put a break on the intentions of Christ. The unholy trinity of the world, the flesh, and the devil, which we know well, emboldens us to separate ourselves from the "deep" of God's grace, which is generously opened up to us: in personal and liturgical prayer, when we celebrate the sacraments, and during the reading of God's word. Inconspicuous attacks are often masked by a welter of seemingly important activities, as if we never heard the sentence, "Few things are needful, or only one" (Luke 10, 42). The "deep" is our reserved and privileged time with the Lord. He himself enfolds us in it, providing us with everything we need. Let us, therefore, "put out into the deep." 

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The Institutional and Charismatic Dimensions of the Renewal

by Allan Panozza

In the document *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* the Holy Father refers to the importance of both the Institutional and the Charismatic dimensions of the Church. He states:

"The Institutional and Charismatic aspects are co-essential as it were to the Church's constitution. They both contribute albeit differently, to the life, renewal, and sanctification of the people of God". I believe that the essence of this statement by the Pope is also relevant to the Charismatic Renewal itself.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal is correctly perceived as being one of the New Ecclesial Movements which have come into being since the Second Vatican Council. However the Charismatic Renewal is really much more than that. It is best described as being a "moving" of the Holy Spirit, wherein people who respond by yielding to His power, may experience the presence of God's love and action in their lives. We have seen ample evidence of the powerful grace which flows from being "baptised" or "released" in the Holy Spirit. Millions of Catholics worldwide have found their lives transformed through a simple prayer of surrender to the Holy Spirit, the principle effect of which is to enter into a new and ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

This transformation of their spiritual lives has presented to many a new ability to recognise and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, many have also experienced a new love for the Church and its sacramental life. I have always loved my Catholic faith, but after I was baptised in the Holy Spirit I experienced a more profound love and devotion for the Blessed Eucharist. I have found great peace by simply sitting in the presence of Jesus

in the Blessed Sacrament, and relating to him as my friend. I also began to experience the power which exists in being open to the action of the Holy Spirit, especially in the seeking of a deeper faith in Jesus Christ

Let us consider for a moment two important tenets of our Catholic tradition, the Eucharist, and faith in Jesus Christ. I have always had a deep devotion for the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist, but after I was baptised in the Holy Spirit I experienced a powerful insight into the reality of this mystery. One morning as I was leaving a church following Mass and Holy Communion, the words of Jesus in St. John's Gospel suddenly hit me like a bombshell. I was literally overcome with the sheer power of his promise:

"...He(She) who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him..." (John 6:56).

Until that moment my "Institutional" understanding of the Eucharist had been a belief which I simply accepted as a fact. Yes! This is truly Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity, present under the appearance of bread. However, in that moment of absolute certainty I received a "Charismatic" insight into the truth and power of the presence of Jesus living in me and I in him. This was for me an outpouring of grace, in which the Holy Spirit fired the very essence of my being with a "knowledge" which was beyond any capacity to attain through my human intellect. *Jesus really lives in me! I really live in Jesus!* Ask the Holy Spirit right now to convince you of the reality of this truth.

Similarly, the Church proclaims the gospel invitation of Jesus. *"...Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me..."* (John 14:1).

This is the "Institutional" dimension of the call of Jesus to trust in him.

Time and again Jesus invited his disciples to trust in him. He deplored the absence of faith amongst his own people, and even berated the apostles *"... Where is your faith..."* (Luke 8:25).

It was only after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that these same men were really able to put their faith in the risen Christ to the extent that they were each prepared to die for him. The miracles wrought by the apostles occurred through their dependence on Jesus, and the knowledge that he still remained with them through their "charismatic" faith in his presence. Through the "Charismatic" gift of faith the early Church grew daily in numbers, and by shedding their blood the martyrs demonstrated not only their faith, but their total "dependence" on Jesus.

Many times in praying with others I have shared with them the call of Jesus to trust in him. I have contemplated within my own life what it means to depend on Jesus, and I now experience through the "Charismatic" dimension of the Renewal that not only should I trust in Jesus, but I must also "depend" on Him. It is the intervention of the Holy Spirit in my life which leads me to say with absolute faith *"I depend on you, Jesus"* even when my prayers do not seem to be answered as I would wish.

For the ongoing mission of Catholic Charismatic Renewal to lead people into deeper relationship with Jesus, it is important that we should ask Almighty God for two special gifts: first, an "Institutional" love and fidelity for the Church which is the Body of Christ; second and equally important, a continuance of the "Charismatic" dimension which manifests a "prophetic edge", wherein the Holy Spirit demonstrates the reality of Jesus living in the world today through his people, which is the Church. 

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NOW IS THE TIME!

— by **Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins** —

What is the Spirit saying to the Church of Jesus Christ in this hour? Certainly there is a major call for **a renewed fervency in prayer**. The Church must continually come back to the Cenacle/Upper Room, to be enlightened again and again and burn like a Burning Bush. To experience a Pentecost not only of a moment or a day, but a permanent Pentecost, according to the intuition of the Blessed Elena Guerra who, at the end of the nineteenth century, urged Pope Leo XIII to lead the Church back to the Cenacle of Jerusalem.

The trumpet is being sounded and the call is being heard throughout all Christianity. It is a call to the whole people of God — **a time** to awaken from slumber — **a time** to be empowered anew by the Holy Spirit — **a time** to become, anew — **passionate adorers of the Lord and forceful instruments of intercession for the Church and the world**.

Everywhere you look you see writings calling the people of God to intense adoration/worship and intercession. **Now is the time** — many new prayer initiatives are be-

ing called forth, houses of prayer are springing up, prayer mountains are being established, prayer vigils are being held, each responding to this call.

We are in **a time** where God is calling his people to return anew to the Cenacle not in nostalgia, not looking back for the beginning experiences of the Renewal, but with a servant's heart. **It is a time** to go beyond what is so often the normal scope of our prayer — family, friends, our group or community, to pray with great fervour: **1. for the renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ, 2. for the unity of all Christians and 3. for the renewal of society and thereby “a renewal of the face of the earth.”** These were the major themes of Blessed Elena's call to prayer as she proclaimed, **“The first well-spring of renewed action is prayer**, which connects us with the Spirit of Christ, He who renews the face of the earth”. These are also today's themes.

Who is called you might ask? Would it surprise you if I said that **this call to adoration and intercession is both a right and a duty for all of us?** This is an important truth that we all need to comprehend. Each of us, by Baptism, shares in Christ's

As we approach the European Conference at Czestochowa, where Leaders and Intercessors are called to gather together for a time of reflection and formation, we want to publish this article by Kim Kollins, a member of the European ICCRS Sub-committee for the Conference.

priesthood in a unique way. Jesus, as Priest, is interceding for us constantly. What is important to understand is that all intercession comes together at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit for prayer is **the gift of tongues**. To use the gift of tongues in intercession is simply **a**. present the intention for intercession to the Father in Jesus' name. **b**. Pray in tongues, normally by speaking not singing **c**. thank the Lord in faith that the perfect prayer to the Father for the intention mentioned was brought before the throne of God through this *gift* of the Holy Spirit.

Now is the time for the Renewal to respond forcefully to the call to prayer and to give strong witness of its rich experience of prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit. This major treasure, this vitality, should be set into motion in a variety of ways and with the greatest of intensity at this great time, mobilizing adorers and intercessors for the Church and the world. 

Pioneers in the Charismatic Renewal: Bobbie Cavnar

“Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror, but then we shall be seeing FACE TO FACE. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known” (1Cor. 13: 12). On February 14, 2002 (and not 15th, as we wrongly reported in the last issue of the *ICCRS Newsletter*, ed. note) Bobbie Cavnar, an international leader of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, went to be with the Lord.

In 1970, Bobbie experienced the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” Through the public witness of God's transforming power in his own life, in his teaching and preaching at Charismatic Conferences across the United States and in his vision for Catholic Evangelization through television and radio communications, Bobbie became an apostle for Christ for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide.

From 1970 –1974 he founded through the work of the Holy Spirit the Christian Community of God's Delight, a lay Charismatic Covenant Community located in Dallas, Texas. Through evangelistic conferences, seminars, Prince of

Peace Community School, television and other ministries, the Community has helped tens of thousands of lay people, young and old, to experience the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and to live a new life empowered by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the next twenty years many charismatic covenant communities were born. In 1990, Bobbie co-founded and served as Vice-President of the Fraternity of Catholic Charismatic Covenant Communities. Within a few short years, under the leadership of Brian Smith and Bobbie Cavnar, and through the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the Holy See recognized the Fraternity as a Private Association of the Faithful with Papal Right.

In 1979, the Lord gave Bobbie a vision for worldwide evangelism through modern communications. This became his passion. Through his efforts the first documentary on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was produced and presented to Pope John Paul II in December 1979. Soon after, the “Glory to God” weekly television program was born and later

another weekly series known as “The Way Home” which continues today.

During this same period, Bobbie was instrumental in forming a video training center for Lumen 2000 in Dallas, Texas. This training center taught men and women from all over the world how to use modern communications technology to produce quality television shows for the evangelism of Catholics in their home countries using their native languages. It was a tremendous means for sharing Christ's love.

Always promoting the cause of Christ, Bobbie has served over the years on the boards of numerous organizations such as the Franciscan University of Steubenville, promoting the spiritual education of young people. More recently he applied his gifts in support of the Catholic Radio and Television Network (CRTN) dedicated to evangelizing the people of Eastern Europe and of Blagovest Media, a non-profit Russian Foundation for Catholic and Orthodox television. Bobbie was a tireless servant and a beloved apostle worldwide, a gift to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He will be greatly missed. GLORY! 

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Portugal

At the beginning of last February the 9th National Conference of the Portuguese CCR, on the theme "Come to me", was held at the Marian Shrine of Fatima. Over 2,000 participants, also coming from France, Spain and some African countries, attended the meeting. The main speaker was Matteo Calisi, Vice-president of ICCRS and its representative for South Europe. The renewal of spiritual fervour and a new missionary impulse, according to the call of John Paul II in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, were the topics of the Conference, during which there were special meetings for youth, times for prayer and Eucharistic Celebrations presided over by Msgr. Serafim, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, and by Msgr. Jao Alves, Bishop of Coimbra.

Italy

The 2nd International Conference of Praise and Worship was held in the ecumenical city of Bari last February. More than 1,500 Catholic and Evangelical Charismatics from different denominations were present. Many of them were from different European countries, but they also came from Africa, the Americas and Asia. Main speakers at this International meeting were Mike Bickle, Matteo Calisi, Mike Herron, Giovanni Traettino, Fr. Carlo Colonna sj, Tony and Livie Sanchez. Topics at the Conference were: worship, mystics, contemplation, music, eschatology, spiritual warfare and healing considered from an ecumenical point of view.

Papua New Guinea

A weekend for leaders was organized in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre of Lae, Papua New Guinea, last February. The event was introduced by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Albert Rochus. In his

opening speech he quoted the words of Pope John Paul II calling for new evangelisation in the new millennium: 2000 and beyond. He emphasised the role of the CCR in the diocese in leading the work of evangelisation: bringing back the people who have lost faith in Christ and supporting those Christians who have lost hope. He went on to expand on the work of the CCR more generally and urged us to be more committed to helping those who are far away from God.

With the theme for this year 2002, "Go proclaim Christ", he urged us to make our commitment within the CCR to go and proclaim Jesus Christ the Risen Lord and tell the people of the LOVE of God. There were 31 leaders present at the weekend and it was a very good turnout of leaders who positively made the weekend very successful. At the end of the week-end we had a healing service for all leaders who were prayed over and everyone was encouraged to walk always with the Holy Spirit.

Ghana

The first and historical International Praise and Worship Conference/Workshop 2002 organised by the Anglophone West African Co-ordinating Team Services of the CCR (AWACTS) took place at the National Formation and Service Centre of the CCR in Ghana from 11th – 16th February 2002. This Conference/Workshop drew about 85 participants from Praise and Worship teams in Nigeria and Ghana. Features in the programme included welcome addresses by the National Coordinator of Ghana CCR – Mr. Anthony Osei Assibey (as chief host), the ICCRS representative for Anglophone Africa – Mr. Mark Nimo, and the Archbishop of Kumasi ably represented by His Vicar General – Msgr. Stephen Osei Duah. Other highlights

were Eucharistic Celebration and talks delivered by our guest speaker from Malta – Mr. Ivan Laferla. He spoke untiringly on "Return to the first love", "Putting out into the deep" (Lk 5, 1-11), "You are a chosen people" (1 P 2:9), "How to conduct worship sessions in prayer meetings" and "Spiritual warfare".

Dominican Republic

In 2001 the CCR of Santo Domingo celebrated its 30 years of life and during the whole year many activities were held in different areas of the country for this anniversary. The Dominican Republic now has about 2,000 prayer groups, 80 of them being just for youth, with 40-60 participants each. In November two large meetings, on the theme "To Jesus the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit" were held simultaneously in two different parts of the country, one in the capital and the other one in Santiago. In Santo Domingo Fr. Diego Jaramillo and other important leaders of CCR participated and, despite the inclement weather, it was a day full of joy and cheerfulness.

Italy

At the end of November 2001 an important meeting was held in Rome gathering together international ecclesial movements. The Charismatic Renewal worldwide was represented by ICCRS and by its Vice-President Matteo Calisi. At the meeting, held in the Schonstatt Centre, were Chiara Lubich (for the "Focolari" movement), Andrea Riccardi (for "S. Egidio" Community), Jesus Carrascosa (for "Comunione e Liberazione") as well as others. The main aim of the meeting was fraternity and the sharing of experiences to get to know each other better. 

Life in Christ - a video retreat

Catholic Evangelisation Services, established by the Charismatic Renewal in the UK, has recently filmed Fr Raniero Cantalamessa's much loved and powerful retreat based on the book of Romans. It consists of eight 40-minute talks and also seven short reflections on the wonderful hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*. The videos have been professionally produced in front of a live audience and are being shown in prayer groups, parishes and communities around the world with very positive feedback. They are also available on audio cassette.

For more details of these and all the other video series available including those by Mgr Mark Coleridge please contact Catholic Evangelisation Services at PO Box 333, St Albans, Herts. AL2 1EL Phone / Fax: 01727 822837, or visit our web site: www.catholicewangel.org.

Life in the Spirit Manual

At long last and after nearly two years of negotiation with Servant Publications the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States has obtained permission to act as an agent in granting various interested groups permission to publish translations of the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000*.

To ask permission to translate the manual you can write to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, (PO Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508; fax: 540-972-0627; e-mail: chariscenter@nsc-chariscenter.org).

The NSC will then send you an agreement which you will need to sign and return.