



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Services

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the Charismatic Renewal
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THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL : Feast of God's gifts

by Mark Nimo



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INTRODUCTION

Addressing the National Service Committee of the Italian 'Renewal in the Spirit', in Rome on 4 April 1998, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II said,

"The Catholic Charismatic movement is one of the many fruits of the Second Vatican Council, which, like a new Pentecost, led to an extraordinary flourishing in the Church's life of groups and movements particularly sensitive to the action of the Spirit. How can we not give thanks for the precious spiritual fruits that the Renewal has produced in the life of the Church and in the lives of so many people? How many lay faithful -men, women, young people, adults and the elderly- have been able to experience in their own lives the amazing power of the Spirit and his gifts! How many people have rediscovered faith, the joy of prayer, the power and beauty of the Word of God, translating all this into generous service in the Church's mission! How many lives have been profoundly changed! For all this today, I wish to praise and thank the Holy Spirit".

The above quotation captures in essence the reason for us all to be grateful to God for the gifts poured into the lives of many ordinary people within the Church. The Holy Father's comments also convince me all the more that the CCR has borne fruit over the years and that the Church recognizes these fruits as such. Contrary to the erroneous notion that the CCR is all about the gift of tongues, healing and 'noise-making', the Holy Father gives thanks to God for lives that have been profoundly changed. This is what I believe Christianity is all about; the change that occurs when men and women encounter the living God.

THE GIFT OF PRAYER:

Thousands of prayer groups have sprung up on all continents of the world as a remarkable sign of the CCR over the past three decades or so. Millions of people have had a personal Pentecost through the experience we call "the baptism of the Holy Spirit". This has brought many

back to the Cenacle, where daily prayer has become a joyful Christian experience.

The prophecy of Zechariah, which says "But over the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem I shall pour out a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look to me." (Zc 12; 10a), has become a reality for many. Different forms of prayer are discovered. Examples are the prayers of praise, adoration, meditation, contemplation, petition, intercession and spiritual warfare. Kim Catherine Marie Collins, comments in her article, "Come back to the Cenacle", that it is common to find "many new prayer initiatives being called forth - houses of prayer are springing up, prayer mountains and prayer vigils are being held in response to this prompting of the Holy Spirit."

In his Apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, Pope John Paul II says, "It is important that what we propose with the help of God should be profoundly rooted in contemplation and prayer. Ours is a time of continual movement, which often leads to restlessness, with the risk of "doing for the sake of doing". We must resist this temptation by trying "to be" before trying "to do". The Holy Father calls on all the faithful to resort to learning from the rich Mystical Tradition of the Church, which has the lives of the saints as examples. St Augustine of Hippo tells us "prayer is essentially having a Holy desire". We need to pray for the gift of prayer! Prayer is the key to our transformation in Christ. It is through prayer that we grow in holiness and in all the virtues. As the Pope has expressed, again in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, "the women and men of our day -often perhaps unconsciously- ask believers not only to speak of Christ, but in a certain sense to show him to them" and he further explains this will be ineffective if "we ourselves have not first contemplated his face". Eucharistic adoration has been revived in many parts of the world through the CR.

THE GIFT OF LOVE:

One of the profound experiences that people have for the first time at a prayer meeting is the tangible sense of love among Christians. This finds expression in the hugs and offering of greetings, which is carried out with joy. It is almost a statement in itself to say, "You are loved and accepted by God irrespective of your social, economic, ethnic or political background". Barriers of pride and prejudice are broken and we recognize ourselves as children of one heavenly Father and coheirs with Jesus Christ. All this is possible because the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us, has poured the love of God into our hearts (Rm 5; 5).

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit makes the command of Jesus Christ possible to live. "I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you. It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognize you as my disciples". (Jn 13; 34-35) The love we have for one another is often the first sign of credible witness to the world. It is this love that impels us to accept one another and also forgive each other when offended. I recall a period when there were people from six different nations living in my community. It always left people astonished to discover this and ask, "How do you cope with your differences?" I must confess that this has not come about easily. There has often been tension and disagreement. The love we share with one another is always an overflow of the love we ourselves have opened up to receive from God. Two important ways of receiving the

(continued on page 3)

Come to...



12 days of BLESSINGS!

Charismatic Leaders' Consultation
Spiritual Retreat for Charismatic Leaders
Pilgrimage to the holy sites in Italy
September 18th - 30th, 2003 / Italy

...the major event of 2003!



ICCRS and the ecclesial movements

by Oreste Pesare

«The CCR, in fact, could be considered as a movement, but different to others. In a certain way we can say -with Cardinal Suenens- that, "...more than a movement, the CR is the Church in movement..."»

The words of Pope John Paul II rang out across the vast square of St. Peter's Basilica to the more than 300,000 people who had gathered on the eve of Pentecost. "Today the Church rejoices at the renewed confirmation of the prophet Joel's words...: 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh'. You, present here, are the tangible proof of this 'outpouring' of the Spirit. Each movement is different from the others, but they are all united in the same communion and for the same mission. Some charisms given by the Holy Spirit burst in like an impetuous wind, which seizes people and carries them to new ways of missionary commitment to the radical service of the Gospel, by ceaselessly proclaiming the truths of the faith, accepting the living stream of tradition as a gift and instilling in each person an ardent desire for holiness..." (GPII to the Ecclesial Movements. S. Peter's Square, Rome, 30 May 1998).

It seems to me that this statement from the Pope accurately describes the ecclesial movements in the Catholic Church today: A tangible proof of the "outpouring" of the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of the Gospel to the people of the third millennium, and to carry them to an ardent desire for holiness. Alleluia! The Holy Father appreciates and loves the ecclesial movements and the work which the Holy Spirit is doing today among the laity, religious and clergy throughout the world.

ICCRS is certainly amongst these fruits of the Holy Spirit today, and the CR, more than any other movement testifies to the richness of the Spirit's gifts. We read from the ICCRS statutes: "The CCR -in fact- is not a single, unified world wide movement. It does not have a single founder or group of founders as many other movements do. It has no membership lists. It is a highly diverse collection of individuals, groups and activities, often quite independent of one another, in different stages and modes of development and with differing emphases, that nevertheless share the

same fundamental experience and espouse the same general goals. This pattern of loose-knit relationships is found at the diocesan and national levels as well as on the international level. These relationships are very often characterised by free association, dialogue, and collaboration rather than by integration into an ordered structure. Leadership is characterised more by offering service to those who want it rather than by governance".

Furthermore, the central goals of CCR include: "To foster the reception and use of the spiritual gifts (charismata) not only in the Charismatic Renewal but also in the broader Church...". (from the ICCRS statutes).

Now we will try to clarify the term "movement". The CCR, in fact, could be considered as a movement, but different to others. In a certain way we can say -with Cardinal Suenens- that, "...more than a movement, the CR is the Church in movement...". Of course, within the CR there are organizations, communities, associations, schools of evangelization, etc. which are all expressions of this grace of the Holy Spirit

Now let us clarify the term "ecclesial". One could wrongly have the idea that to be an "ecclesial movement" means to become a structured body receiving official recognition from the Church. For the right meaning of the term "ecclesial" one should read article 30 of the Apostolic Exhortation "Christifideles Laici" by Pope John Paul II, 1988. Perhaps for now, it's enough to remember what Pope John Paul II says regarding "ecclesial maturity". "...Today a new stage is unfolding before you: that of ecclesial maturity...The Church expects from you the 'mature' fruits of communion and commitment".

1. The term "communion" is really a charismatic term. It means unity and not uniformity. It would be easy if the members of the CR had the same tasks, the same programs, the same missions, etc. This is not the Lord's thinking. The Lord wants "communion" which is unity in diversity in using the

different charisms. The best way to do this is to rejoice in the diversity of other groups and communities which the Lord has raised up in His great love, and to welcome the new things that we can always learn from one another.

2. The term "commitment" means involvement with generosity in the things of God, because the Father loves those who give with joy. Whoever has met Jesus and His Holy Spirit cannot stay at home! It is the Spirit that alone pushes us to go out and do all things for God's reign.

With this clear identity ICCRS is answering the invitation of the Holy Father, and under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL), is experiencing a special time of relationship and friendship with other ecclesial movements in the Church. Such as, the Focolare Movement, the St. Egídio Community, Cursillo, Comunione e Liberazione, the Neocatechumenal Way and others. We are also exchanging different experiences with these movements, participating together in meetings, and helping each other to share the good things which the Lord has given us. An example of this is the generosity of Chiara Lubich (founder and President of the Focolare movement) who has placed at our disposal the Mariapolis Centre in Castelgandolfo for the international event "12 days of Blessings" which ICCRS is organizing for Sep. 2003. This complex is usually reserved for international Focolarini meetings, but on this occasion Chiara has generously offered it to us as a sign of communion.

It is truly a joy to note that in this experience of communion between ecclesial movements, also present with ICCRS are other charismatic associations and communities, such as Rinnovamento nello Spirito from Italy and Canção Nova Community from Brazil. We see this as confirmation that in accordance with our mandate from Pope John Paul II, ICCRS seeks to serve all charismatic entities worldwide, without any special "government" upon them. For us the "government" is and shall remain a service.

«The Lord wants "communion" which is unity in diversity in using the different charisms. The best way to do this is to rejoice in the diversity of other groups and communities which the Lord has raised up in His great love, and to welcome the new things that we can always learn from one another»

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A CHARISMATIC MEGA EVENT? September 18th - 30th 2003

- ✓ Hear some of the best know speakers and preachers in the world.
- ✓ Make a retreat in the shady peace of Castelgandolfo on the outskirts of Rome.
- ✓ Join a pilgrimage to some of the
- ✓ Meet old friends and find some new ones too!



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

Yet you know that God is abundant in His love and perhaps he is calling you to share this **12 days of BLESSINGS**. Or maybe you can only manage a short break for one part of the event. Either way, we are waiting to welcome you to join us as beloved labourers in Christ's own vineyard.

Pray for the time to come to this special ICCRS event. We need to discern the Holy Spirit's plans for the future course of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and so we need to hear from all parts of His earthly Kingdom!

Costs vary from € 150.00 Euros to just over € 1000.00 Euros (excluding air/railway fares) depending on your choices.

INTERESTED? Then put the dates in your diary and send for a Registration Form straight away:

E-mail : info@iccrs.org
 Fax : +39 06.69.88.75.30 Tel.: +39 06.69.88.75.38/65
 Postal Address: ICCRS, Palazzo della Cancelleria, 00120 Vatican City, Europe
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...the major International Charismatic Event of 2003!

Members of the Council: Michelle Moran

Michelle became a Christian and was baptised in the Holy Spirit at the age of 16. She therefore has the blessing of having been a "charismatic" for all her Christian life. She met her husband Peter, who she has been married to for 22 years, at a Catholic Youth Centre where they worked as youth leaders.

Peter and Michelle were involved in renewal for many years serving at Westminster, one of the largest prayer groups and days of Renewal in England. Then the Lord called them forward in new ways. In 1985 they became founder members of the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism. Together with a Priest, a Religious Sister and two other Married Couples they set out to minister full time in the church and to try and live what Pope Paul VI called for in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, in reality.

For a number of years Michelle worked in the ministry of Parish Evangelisation, travelling the U.K. and helping parishes to move forward in Mission. She then moved

into the important area of the training and formation of leaders for the new Evangelisation.

Currently Michelle leads various programmes in Evangelisation and Leadership Training. Her work in renewal and with schools of evangelisation in Europe mean that she is now a widely travelled and popular conference speaker. For the last twelve years Michelle has worked closely with the Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales and has chaired their Home Mission Committee. Michelle is the author of two books about Evangelisation. Both are very practical, aiming to equip people for this very important ministry.

Michelle hopes that during her time on the ICCRS Council she will continue to remain faithful to the Lord and inspire others on the journey. She is also passionate about passing on to others what she has been so blessed to receive herself (ref. St. Paul). Hopefully she will also be instrumental in helping to raise up and equip the next generation of people in CR.

(Continued from page 1)

love of God is through personal prayer and the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

The challenge is to bring this gift of God's love to the wider parish community and also to our neighbourhood. It is this love that will impel us to serve all men and women.

THE GIFT OF SERVICE:

As noted earlier, the gifts of prayer and love are remarkable in the CCR. These are the ways by which we nurture our various vocations. Our missions, or our gift of service therefore springs forth from the gifts of prayer and love. As the Pope reminds us "contemplation which does not give birth to mission will eventually wither, and mission that does not spring from contemplation is doomed to frustration and failure."

According to 1 Co 12; 4-7, "There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good". Every gift of the Holy Spirit is so important, considering the fact that no single individual has all the gifts of the Holy

Spirit. Since we are members of one body, all that belongs to one is for all. "If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy". (1 Co 12; 26) Every gift of the Holy Spirit is then to be placed at the service of the Christian Community. These include the gifts of prophecy, teaching, healing, miracles, discernment, wisdom and the word of knowledge.

CONCLUSION

God's gifts must be received with gratitude, since they are not given because we merit them. Through the CCR many people have experienced in their own lives the amazing power of the Holy Spirit and his gifts! It will be very unfair to limit the charismatic renewal only to the exercise of charisms in the lives of individuals. Lives have been profoundly changed! Amongst many of God's gifts to the CR, those of prayer, love and service stand very prominent. The CR, representing a Charismatic dimension of the Church also recognizes the Institutional dimension of the Church as a gift of God notwithstanding tensions that often beset these two entities. The joy of existing as Church is found when both dimensions find their source and survival in God. The Institutional Church needs the charismatic dimension, while the Charismatic dimension needs the Institutional Church.

My experience of a feast is one where there is a vast array of choice foods. The CR seeks to recognize the vast array of gifts poured out into the Church by God. It is indeed a feast of God's gifts! We are called to receive these gifts, celebrate with gratitude what we have come to believe and also bear witness to the world around us with these same gifts. As Pope Paul VI said at the launch of Cardinal Suenens' book, *A New Pentecost*; "how wonderful it would be if the Lord would again pour out charisms in increased abundance in order to make the Church fruitful, beautiful and marvelous, and enable it to win the attention and astonishment of the profane and secularized world". Alleluia! Welcome to the Banquet of the Lord! The best way to enjoy this feast is "to taste and see how good the Lord is!"



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

England



Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the primate of England and Wales, was surprised by the huge turn out at the first mass he officially celebrated for the CCR, as 2500 people packed Westminster Cathedral on 15th March. The Cardinal, who is very supportive about the role of the movements in the Church, spoke about the call to holiness, which he said was an essential component for evangelisation today. He said, "Thank you for your witness in the renewal and in your groups and the attractiveness of people who give themselves to God in this way. This is the evangelisation we seek. People today are moved by witnesses rather than words".

Indonesia



During April 2003, the President of ICCRS, Allan Panozza, led a retreat for Leaders of CCR in Indonesia with the theme 'Let the Fire Fall Again'. This was held at Lembah Karmel (the Valley of Carmel). Some 350 CCR leaders from many areas of this nation attended the retreat, and the power of the Holy Spirit was evident as leaders rededicated their lives anew to the Lord Jesus Christ. Allan expressed his gratitude to the leaders of the Renewal for their commitment in spreading the 'Good News' within this most populous Moslem country, and especially thanked the retreat organising committee, led by NSC Chairman Joseph Tedjandra, National Chaplain Fr. Rolf Reichenbach, and event Chairperson Lanny Kardiman. The final mass was celebrated by the Episcopal advisor to the NSC Bishop Michael Angkur OFM. This also was the occasion of the bi-weekly healing

mass hosted by the Carmelite Community at Cikanyere, and was attended by about 4,000 people of whom many travelled long distances to be present. Praise the Lord that our Catholic Faith is truly alive and well in Indonesia.

Poland



The 5th National Congress of CCR was held on 15th-17th May 2003. About 1200 leaders from Polish charismatic groups prayed together and listened to the teaching about "Responsibility for our heritage" and "Unity of the Spirit" and more than 200,000 people came to celebrate together in the third day. Among the main speakers: Fr. Marian Piatkowski, Bp. Bronislaw Dembowski, Sr. Anna, Oreste Pesare (Director of ICCRS Office), Fr. Andrzej, Fr. Miroslaw Cholewa, Fr. Tadeusz Hajduk S.J.

From 9th-12th June, the National Charismatic Retreat for Priests was held in Czestochowa. The retreat master was Bp. Albert de Monleon whose testimony and humility were strong evangelization tools. More

than 100 priests from all over the country attended. The retreat was a special time of blessing and healing for all the participants.

United States



The 2003 NCCR Conference in the U.S. was held at the end of May in San Antonio, Texas. The theme was "Remove All Bounds to Hope. Bring to Life the Culture of Pentecost in the Power of the Holy Spirit." This was a joint effort with the CCR Center in San Antonio. The Conference was conducted in both English and Spanish. There were special sessions for Koreans, Youth and Children. About 1,500 people participated. Speakers included Peter Herbeck, Johnnette Benkovic, Jess Romero, Sr. Linda Koontz, Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, Pepe Pardo and Fr. Minor de Jesus Calvo. Music was provided by Jim Murphy and a group of friends. After the Conference members of the NSC and the NSC Council met for a few days of prayer and discussion. Present for part of the meeting was Oreste Pesare, ICCRS Director, who was in the U.S. visiting leaders after the National Conference.

Ecclesial Movements

The Marian Congress was held this year from 28th - 30th April 2003 at Castelgandolfo near the Mariapolis Centre, the noted pontifical residence entrusted to the Focolare Movement, under the title "Contemplating Christ with the eyes of Mary". Matteo Calisi made a contribution at the round table of Wednesday 29th April responding to the question of "Mary and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal". Those present at the meeting were: Chiara Lubich (founder of the Work of Mary - otherwise known as the Focolare), Andrea Riccardi (the Saint Egidio Community), Cardinals Miloslav Vlk of Prague and Silvano Piovanelli of Florence, Oreste Pesare (Director of ICCRS), Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State of His Holiness, and the bishops Mons. Stanislaw Rytko, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, Bishop of Terni. The entire Congress was transmitted to the world by satellite tv and the internet and was seen on the national broadcasting services of five continents.



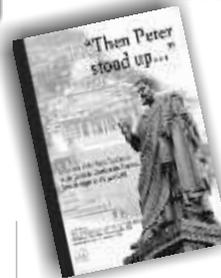
Prayer for Healing

This book will be of great assistance to those who seek to continue their function within the healing ministry of Jesus, recalling the promise which he gave to his disciples
 "...they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover..." (Mk 16:18).

Prayer for healing, ICCRS, Vatican City 2003, 320 pages, \$13.00 US or € 13.00. Available only in English.

Ordinary mail*: (all over the world) \$2.00 US or € 2.00 / **Air mail***: Europe and Mediterranean Basin \$3.00 US or € 3.00 - Africa, America & Asia \$5.00 US or € 5.00 Oceania \$7.00 US or € 7.00 (Air mailing cost may be paid in equivalent Can\$, Aus\$)

"Then Peter stood up..."



Collection of the Pope's Addresses to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from its origin to the year 2002

This book collects what the Church has said and written, in the person of the Holy Father, about the CCR over the last thirty years.

Then Peter stood up..., ICCRS 2002, 139 pages, \$10.00 US or € 10.00. Available in English and Italian.

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