



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

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The wise steward: Heaven on Earth

by Peter Thompson



This issue

The wise steward:
Heaven on Earth

13th day of blessing:
Unity

The Doctrinal Commission

Strip:
The Eucharistic

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LEADERSHIP FORMATION

Ecclesial maturity:
The ripe fruit of communion
and commitment"
An appeal by the Holy Father
John Paul II

Catherine of Siena:
A Charismatic Saint

Questions to ICCRS

In this series entitled "The wise steward", the ICCRS Newsletter will endeavour to help readers to grow in wisdom and understanding concerning some major areas of our Catholic faith. "Heaven on Earth", these words appear in the recent encyclical letter by Pope John Paul II entitled *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, where as chief shepherd on earth he seeks to raise our consciousness and understanding of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. LG 11 (CCC 1324). His words in section 19 of *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* include the following: "The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey."

These words should assist us in our understanding and desire to join ourselves to Christ in the fullest way possible. We who have been renewed, transformed and enflamed by the power of The Holy Spirit must respond to His invitation through the Church to receive daily if possible the Bread of Life, The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ.

There is no greater source of sanctifying grace for us than the Body of Christ and we who desire to respond to John Paul's exhortation, to launch out into the deep, to grow in holiness and become living saints, need to be nourished regularly through the Eucharist if we are to remain faithful and true to our calling.

One of the fruits of the CCR is a faithfulness to the magisterium, that is to the teaching authority of the Church. John Paul II is an exceptional teacher and he exhorts us in his encyclical to enter into the heavenly places, for Christ in all his glory comes to us in the Eucharist. Angels bow down in worship before the tabernacle. They gaze upon us with awe who have the privilege of approaching the Lord and are able to receive His very flesh and blood

as food to nourish our souls and prepare us for the beatific vision.

Even outside of the celebration of the Mass we can draw close to the Lord in the tabernacle, or brought forth from this hidden place to be exposed in the monstrance where we may adore His sovereign presence. Gazing upon Our Lord with the eyes of faith that are expressed in the words, "yes Lord I believe".

Once again John Paul II encourages Eucharistic adoration and we in the CCR should be the first to sign up when our parish undertakes to begin Eucharistic adoration through the day or night.

Many an hour I have spent alone with the Lord in the night and experienced the joy of being able to gaze upon him, to sing in tongues and talk to him from the depths of my heart. In his encyclical John Paul II also reminds us of our need to be rightly disposed when we come to receive the Lord. Are we in a state of grace, that is, free from mortal sin? If we are in a state of grave sin we must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving the Lord in the Eucharist. When we are in a state of grace we must still approach with reverence and love for Christ and our neighbour.

We receive sanctifying grace in proportion to our disposition, no wonder St Paul in 1 Cor 11:27 reminds us that anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup unworthily is answerable for the Body and the Blood of the Lord. St Cyril of Jerusalem speaks of receiving the King of Kings into our hands. Pointing out that if we were given some grains of gold would we not take great care lest we lose any. How much more careful we should be when receiving the precious body of Christ into our hands. I

always look closely into the palm of my hand after receiving to make sure there are no particles left. Otherwise I could so easily lose that which is more precious than gold.

We must also be docile to The Holy Spirit just as Mary was and The Pope's chapter on Mary and the Eucharist is filled with rich insights. We, like Mary, can receive Jesus into our very bodies. She, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, becomes the ark of the new covenant, the womb bearing the living Body of The Saviour. Our bodies are temples of The Holy Spirit and we for a few short minutes while the "accidents" of bread and wine remain are living temples of the physical Body of Jesus.

What must Mary have thought as she gazed at her beloved Son held aloft in the hands of St. Peter as he celebrated the Eucharist and said these words "Hoc est enim corpus meum" (This is my body). She who had held him in her arms in death now looks upon him alive yet hidden in the mystery of the Eucharist.

Let us as Catholic charismatics learn from our beloved Pope John Paul II by prayerfully reading and studying his encyclical written not only for Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Men and Women in the Consecrated life but also for all the Lay Faithful.

"Once again John Paul II encourages Eucharistic adoration and we in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal should be the first To sign up when our parish undertakes to begin Eucharistic adoration through the day or night"



13th day of blessing : **Unity**

by *Jim Murphy*

"Praise and worship was both a great sign and an agent of unity. As the people began to praise the Lord, their individual uniqueness blended, in different languages, to form a chorus of praise That was truly united"

We continue to get very positive feedback about the "12 Days of Blessings" which took place at Mariapolis Centre (Castelgandolfo-Rome). For the next several issues of the newsletter ICCRS will be sharing ideas on ways to continue the blessings of that event in your local community. The "13th day" of blessing is every day. Keep looking for God's blessings, for His mercies are new every morning.

Among the many graces that were present at ICCRS's 12 Days of Blessings, one that was evident was Unity. Among those who gathered, there was a great diversity of color, language, customs, and backgrounds. Yet the differences only underscored the great gift of unity that was present!

The two greatest times of unity each day were the charismatic praise and worship, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Praise and worship was both a great sign and an agent of unity. As the people began to praise the Lord, their individual uniqueness blended, in different languages, to form a chorus of praise that was truly united. People clapped and waved their hands, or moved about in a spirit of joy and worship, even if they didn't know the lyrics of the song, because they understood its spirit. When people began to pray with the gift of tongues, there was a truly unified prayer! Human understanding was suspended; the universal language was the language of the Spirit, the language of love.

The ultimate unity was the Eucharist. Men and women who lived on other sides of the planet, spoke different languages, and had totally different life experiences, all gathered together at The Lord's altar to receive the One Body of Christ. There was only one people, and only one Lord. The uniqueness of the individual was surrendered into the unity of the body. There was only Christ. People continue to marvel about the gift of unity that was present at this milestone event. One participant

commented, "I feel so close to these people; closer than my own prayer group back home. I wish we had the kind of unity there that I have experienced here."

Unity is a gift of the Spirit. While the 12 Days of Blessings was an especially blessed time, the unity Christ gave His people there is the same unity He wishes for all of His followers.

How do we live the "13th day of blessing"? How do we experience a unity in our groups? Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Unity is God's will. If God calls us to unity, then we must believe that unity is possible. We must also believe that God will give us the grace for unity.

2. We must desire unity. We must search our hearts. Do we really value unity? Is it a priority in our groups? Are we willing to die to ourselves in order to have unity? Is our group so desirous of unity that we will do the hard work; pay the high price for it?

3. We must pray for unity. We must fervently ask God for this gift to be given to our group. If we really want unity...we should be ready to pray at length, and deeply, for it. We should consider fasting for this intention. We should commit ourselves to pray for it until God in His mercy gives us what we cry out for. It's a typical human error to work very hard at something, and only pray as the last resort. Prayer should be where we start!

4. Unity comes with clarity. One way to help bring unity to a

group is to be very clear on the vision, purpose, and function of the group. Many times there are disagreements in a group because people are operating with different expectations. If one person thinks the prayer group is all about contemplative prayer, they will be very annoyed at all the people there who keep praising out loud. If another person thinks the group is about vocal, communal prayer, they will become irritated with the individual who sits in private silence throughout the meeting. Neither person is wrong in what they are doing, but they are definitely operating under different understandings of the purpose of the prayer group. These kinds of difference make unity very difficult. It takes time and effort to clarify the purpose and unique character of a group, but the investment of time and energy is worth it.

5. Pay attention to troubled relationships. Nothing is more detrimental to genuine unity than a facade of unity. Many times people are really at odds with one another, yet pretend that everything is fine. Meanwhile underneath the surface, hurts grow and anger seethes. Jesus and St. Paul both encourage us to face the difficulties in our relationships. Go to the person and talk out what is troubling you. Don't just complain, but seek together, how you might come to some understanding, some reconciliation. Be ready to acknowledge your own fault in the matter. Be the first to offer an apology, and to accept the other person's contrition. Problems we bury don't go away, they rot.

By being committed to unity, we can continue to live the "13th day" of blessing. 

"Vibrant prayer groups or ministries have collapsed because two leaders were so hurt by each other that they simply could not continue together. Deal with your struggles before it gets to that point"

ICCRS

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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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The Doctrinal Commission

by Bishop Joe Grech

In November 2001, the ICCRS Council together with the Pontifical Council for the Laity, organized a Colloquium on Healing. This was the first time that Charismatic Renewal (CR) and a Vatican dicastery officially organized a Conference together. The theme of healing is one of the issues that is closely associated with CR because of the importance that the Renewal gives to prayers for healing. It was therefore a very graced time when leaders from all over the world met together to share their experiences and to provide guidelines for those involved in this ministry. One of the most pressing needs that came to light after the Colloquium was the necessity to continue the dialogue between the Vatican authorities and CR. It was a unanimous decision to continue to explore the ways and means in which close collaboration would be maintained and positively encouraged for the benefit of those involved in CR all over the world.

For this purpose, I was asked to

form a Doctrinal Commission. This Commission was to have as its members Professors teaching in Church tertiary universities and institutions. Moreover, these professors needed also to be totally immersed in the spirituality of CCR. They had to be people who have been involved in a positive manner in CR for quite some time. The reason is obvious. For a fruitful communication to be maintained, these people had to be familiar with theological concepts and language while at the same time very familiar with the workings of the Holy Spirit as experienced in CR.

It was also decided to take as our first topic for discussion a deeper reflection on the document on healing promulgated by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in the light of the various teachings that were shared during the Colloquium. I have asked five people to be part of the Commission in order to examine this issue from the perspective of their particular theological discipline. Bishop Albert de

Monleon (Liturgy and Church history), Father Francis Martin (Scripture), Father Giuseppe Bentivegna (Patristics), Father Peter Hocken (Ecumenism) and Father Libero Gerosa (Canon Law). The first meeting took place at Castelgandolfo, September 21-22 during the "12 Days of Blessings" programme organized by CR. Fr. Mario Pancera has kindly accepted the role of secretary to the commission.

Our hope is that as a consequence of these two days, we will work towards the compiling of a final document with the approval of the proper Vatican authority. The document will then be sent to the leaders of CR all over the world for their use. In this manner, CR will be speaking with the heart and the support of the Church. Next year with God's help, the Commission will meet to explore another topic following the same procedure.

We ask for your prayers for the success of this ministry and we place this work under the protection of Mary, spouse of the Holy Spirit. 

"The theme of healing is one of the issues that is closely associated with CR because of the importance that the Renewal gives to prayers for healing. It was therefore a very graced time when leaders from all over the world met together to share their experiences and to provide guidelines for those involved in this ministry"

**Do you want to serve the Lord internationally for 1 or 2 years?
Do you speak languages? Do you have experience with computers and Internet?
If yes, we are looking for you!**

ICCRS is looking for full time volunteers for the ICCRS office in Rome. The people must speak English plus other languages fluently. Either Spanish, and/or French and/or Italian is needed. If you are interested in serving Jesus in the Charismatic Renewal worldwide, please forward your CV to the ICCRS office including the following: language skills, computer knowledge, Internet experience, working ethics, marital status, education, etc. In addition, please, send a letter of recommendation from your NSC or Community leader. You could be chosen to serve the Charismatics worldwide in Vatican City... We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please keep in mind that ICCRS is a non-profit organization. Therefore, ICCRS can only offer a small monthly stipend for living expenses.

THE EUCHARIST

IN THE EUCHARIST THE LORD'S PROMISE GETS FULL FILLED MT 28:20



AND LOOK, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS YES, TO THE END OF TIME.

"EUCHARIST: THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE" LG II

IN THE 2000 JUBILEE POPE JOHN PAUL II CELEBRATED MASS AT THE JERUSALEM CENACLE "THE PLACE OF THE EUCHARIST WAS INSTITUTED".



TAKE AND EAT, THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU

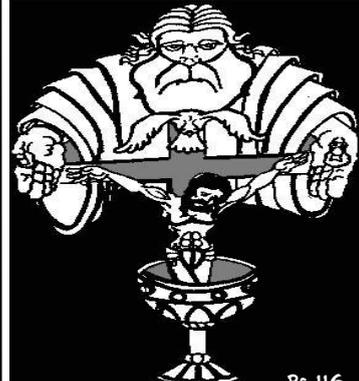
THE APOSTLES MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE REAL SENSE OF THOSE WORDS ON THAT THURSDAY BUT THEY WERE MADE CLEAR ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY.



ACTS 2:42

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING, TO THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO THE PRAYERS.

BY JAMT



Ps 116

LET'S SAY AS THE PSALMIST DID HOW "CAN I REPAY THE LORD FOR ALL HIS GOODNESS TO ME? I WILL LIFT UP THE CUP OF SALVATION AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD"

