



International Catholic
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Services

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by Bishop Joe Grech



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More and more, in our times, we are witnessing many people moving away from any notion of authority to pursue what they perceive to be right and just for them. This way of thinking and acting does not leave any room for objective truth. The danger is that some people will pick and choose only those doctrines and instructions that appeal to them or with which they are in agreement. Consequently, it is vitally important to understand that as believers in Jesus Christ and as members of the Catholic Church there is a particular way of acting and that there are certain principles and values to be adhered to and followed. As Catholics we cannot simply choose what we like and what sounds reasonable to us. As a church, we are under authority and we are accountable to this authority for the way in which we live our daily lives. Therefore, there is a vital question to be answered. Who is this authority?

The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church affirms strongly that Jesus Christ is the source of the ministry of the church. Jesus Christ gave the church its authority its mission and its goals (LG n.5). Consequently, Jesus sent by the Father and through the power of the Holy Spirit is the ultimate authority of the Church. It is therefore imperative that as believers, as disciples of Jesus and as members of the church, we develop a deeper and personal relationship with Jesus. As a Catholic, I am called to submit myself first and foremost to the authority and teachings of Jesus. This requires familiarity with the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. It is crucial that as Catholics we pray and meditate on the Word of God every day of our lives.

Being under the authority of Jesus helps us to keep alive our Christian vocation, identity, vision, hopes and dreams. This is vitally important especially during times of disillusionment, anxiety and disorientation. Chapter 21 of St. John's gospel describes "the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the

dead" (Jn 21:14). Peter and some of the other disciples were by the Sea of Galilee. Peter said, "I am going fishing" (Jn 21:3). Peter seemed to have forgotten the three years that he spent with Jesus. He forgot all the amazing miracles of Jesus. He forgot the teachings of Jesus and how the people flocked to him. Peter forgot the promises that Jesus made especially that He will rise again (Jn 12:31-32). Consequently, in his disillusionment, Peter forgot that Jesus called him for a special task: to be the leader of the Church.

Therefore, the only thing that was left for Peter to do was to go back to the way of living he followed before he met Jesus, namely to go fishing. He also influenced the others, but they caught nothing that night. How could they catch anything with such a negative attitude? How could they achieve success when they felt defeated and disillusioned? Yet Jesus was not far away. He was on the shore "about a hundred yards from land" (Jn 21:8).

We all know how the story ended. Through the miraculous catch of fish, Jesus reminded Peter that in spite of all his shortcomings his mission was still to "Feed my lambs" and to "Look after my sheep" (Jn 21:16-17). Under the authority of Jesus, Peter was not only renewed and encouraged in his vocation but he was also empowered to continue the work of Jesus accompanied by signs and wonders. (Ac 3:1-10). In a similar manner, when we start to doubt and tend to get discouraged because of our limitations, Jesus continues to give us His authority and His assistance to proclaim Him as Lord and to continue his work.

Moreover, because of our baptism we not only become a new creation in Jesus Christ; we also become members of the Church. Consequently, we also need to live

under the authority of those who have been entrusted with the leadership ministry of the Church. When Jesus chose the twelve apostles, "He constituted them in the form of a college or permanent assembly, at the head of which he placed Peter, chosen from among them" (LG n.19; Lk 6:13). Jesus named Peter as the rock. He entrusted him with the power of the keys and made him the shepherd of the new people of God (Mt 16:18-19). Moreover, the office of binding and losing that was given to Peter was also given to the other apostles when united with him (LG n.22). This pastoral ministry of Peter and the apostles is at the very heart of the church's foundation and ministry. Today this ministry is being continued by the bishops with and under the headship of the Pope.

The mission of those who have been entrusted with the leadership ministry of the church is to guide God's people in the ways and in the teachings of Jesus. He promised to protect His church and to be with us always through the power of the Holy Spirit. "To fulfil this service, Christ endowed the church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals. The exercise of this charism takes several forms" (CCC n.890). A detailed explanation of how the charism of infallibility is exercised in the Church is found in CCC n.891.

When we place ourselves firmly under the headship of Jesus and with our feet firmly planted in the life and teachings of the church we can realize our full potential as people created by God and help others to realize their identity in God and their purpose in life.

"As Catholics we cannot simply choose what we like and what sounds reasonable to us. As a church, we are under authority and we are accountable to this authority for the way in which we live our daily lives. Therefore, there is a vital question to be answered. Who is this authority?"



News from the ICCRS Council

From the last International meeting which took place in Rome from 7th to 14th March

by *Oreste Pesare*

“...from both of these meetings and also from an audience with the Holy Father we were encouraged to continue providing the specific service that the Holy See has asked of ICCRS, that of coordinating and promoting the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church in all parts of the world...”

Here I am again to bring you up to date with the life of ICCRS and specifically to tell you about what happened at the last meeting of the Council held in Rome from 7th to 14th April 2004.

As usual, or rather, even more so than usual, the atmosphere was splendid, especially if I think of the time spent together in prayer. An hour of praise every morning, the daily celebration of the Eucharist and a further hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament shaped each day of the week. This is not to under-value the sharing of experiences of the CCR throughout the world, amongst the Council members, always a special occasion of giving glory to God for his wonders.

An important feature of the working days of the meeting was a visit to two Vatican offices: to the Pontifical Council for the Laity where we met H.E. Mons. S. Rylko and his new secretary H.E. Mons. J. Clemens, and to the Congregation for the Evangelisation of the People where we met the secretary H.E. Mons. Robert Sarah.

From both of these meetings and also from an audience with the Holy Father we were encouraged to continue providing the specific service that the Holy See has asked of ICCRS, that of coordinating and promoting the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church (CCR) in all parts of the world: to be witnesses in the first place of living a consistent life in the Holy Spirit, and leading on to the task of the new evangelisation, the living and true sign of the Annunciation.

The theme of the majority of the working sessions was clarity of “consciousness”, whether concerning the

nature of the CCR or concerning the identity of ICCRS and the part it is called to play. In particular, among the fundamental issues dealt with were the revision of the ICCRS statutes and the formulation together with the Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities of a statement of intent (a special sub-committee of ICCRS will complete both of these tasks during the current year).

We are also taking the initiative to set up ICCRS continental sub-committees to serve the practical needs of the CCR in various parts of the world. Following an initial positive experience of this idea already started in Europe, it will be the turn of Africa next (concerning which I will be in Namibia as Director of ICCRS next August) and then, of Asia-Oceania. We are also moving in this direction in the Americas.

Then there is the work which has just been put before the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission with the intention of preparing documents on various aspects of the Charismatic Renewal for publication in the near future for the benefit of all.

A great deal of time was devoted to the “CCR Leaders' Formation Project”, on which a multimedia presentation has already been prepared. After some necessary finishing touches this will be sent as a CD to the National Service Committees of the CCR and to other international charismatic groups, to publicise the project and provide information about it. The aim of the project is to establish in Rome a theological-charismatic school open to CCR leaders worldwide to deepen their experience of the Spirit at a theological, ecclesial, spiritual and charismatic level. An initial summer course of about 1 month is in preparation for 2005.

An ICCRS sub-committee is charged with providing the necessary management of the project for all who are involved.

On other ICCRS matters, here are some of the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting.

- In the area of CCR promotion in less well-to-do countries, financial aid was approved for 5 specific projects; \$4500 for Zimbabwe, \$2600 for the Anglo-African leaders' meeting in Namibia next summer, \$2000 for Papua New Guinea, \$500 as a contribution to a leaders' meeting in Peru and €5000 for the ICCRS European sub-committee (IESC) to assist the CCR leaders of Eastern Europe to participate in 2 continental meetings.

- Some new members of the Council were elected: Cyril John from India, P. Renato Tisot from Italy and Dariusz Jeziorny from Poland representing ICCRS respectively in the Middle East and Southern Asia, in Southern Europe, and in Eastern Europe. Special thanks and good wishes went to Matteo Calisi and Mark Nimo who completed their terms of office at this meeting after many years of good service.

- Concerning future events organised by ICCRS besides the already publicised priests' retreat in Ars (France) from 25th September to 1st October 2005 (the dates were postponed), and a European leaders' meeting in Budapest (Hungary) in September 2005, it is proposed to have an international event for CCR leaders, the details of which are yet to be worked out, in 2006. This will be publicised in due time in the ICCRS newsletter and on our website.

The next meeting of the Council will take place again in Rome from 27th February to 6th March 2005. To Jesus be glory and honour. 

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Mr. Walter Zimmermann, Chile

Director-ICCRS Office:

Mr. Oreste Pesare, Italy

ICCRS Advisors:

Administration and events: Mr. Claude Lopez, Australia

Worldwide priests retreat



Ars 2005

25 Sept - 1 Oct

preached by

Sr Briega McKenna
Fr Kevin Scallon

Programme includes: Teachings, daily Mass presided by cardinals and bishops, adoration and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer vigils inspired by the holy Curé of Ars and the Virgin Mary, confessions, sharing witnesses, liturgy of the hours, rosary, praise and worship...

"Thank you for taking on the project of organising this international retreat for priests under the wings of the holy Curé. It is indeed a salutary work for our brothers"

Mgr Guy Bagnard, bishop from Belley-Ars (France)

"We ask the Lord's blessing for this initiative and may He give priests an ever greater thirst for holiness and missionary commitment"

Mgr Csaba Tertyák, Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy

Organised by ICCRS, Community of the Beatitudes and the "John-Mary Vianney" Society

Further information and registrations

Retraite ARS 2005 F-81170 CORDES - FRANCE

e-mail: retraite.ars2005@beatitudes.org site: <http://retraite.ars2005.beatitudes.org>

Retreat Ars 2005

- I am interested, send me more information:*
 Father (Last name) (First name)
 Address: e-mail:
- Send information to (you may even send us a list of names):*
 Father (Last name) (First name)
 Address: e-mail:
- I would like to support a priest:*
 Here is a donation of..... to "Ars 2005".

Claude Lopez

Advisor of ICCRS for major events

Born in alexandria, Egypt to a spanish father and maltese mother. He completed his studies in commerce and accountancy. After his graduation, aged 21, he migrated to Australia in 1948 he worked in the insurance industry.

Claude married Miralda in 1956 and raised a family of three. They have five grandchildren.

Claude and Miralda encountered the renewal in January 1973 while holidaying in Sydney, when baptist friends invited them to hear Kevin Ranaghan address a rally at the first charismatic conference in Australia.

Planning to enter politics Claude instead found himself on the organising committee for the first national

catholic charismatic conference held in Melbourne in June 1974. In 1976 the archdiocesan service committee sponsored his visit to the USA to study and experience living in covenant communities.

Claude served CCR in Australia in diverse roles, as prayer community leader, member of the archdiocesan service committee, chairman of major events and national service committee chairman.

From January 1985 to December 1987 he was director to ICCRS (then known as ICRO). Claude's immediate task was to find suitable premises in Vatican city and transfer the operations of the international office from 19 via Ferruccio. On march 25, 1985 the premises at

the Palazzo della Cancelleria were officially blessed and opened.

On return to Melbourne Claude assumed parish leadership roles and organised a life in the spirit mission for the whole parish, with "Sacre Coeur" as his prayer community and as one of seven CCR coordinator at the diocesan level.

In 1996 claude and miralda returned to Rome for six months where as acting director he assisted the council in introducing current director Oreste Pesare. The Lord continues to call Claude to serve CCR worldwide mainly in the organisation of major conferences, retreats and pilgrimages. His last ICCRS commitment. Was '12 days of blessings!' at Castelgandolfo in September 2003. ☺

*"From January 1985 to December 1987 he was director to ICCRS. Claude's immediate task was to find suitable premises in Vatican city and transfer the operations of the international office
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NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Come Holy Spirit!



“But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth”

John 16:13

New ICCRS Staff

We welcome two new additions to the Staff of the ICCRS Office, Cristiane Tavalassi (Brazil) and Rachel Balsan (France) who are joining the existing team, Amalia Quiroga (Argentina), Linda Egusquiza (Peru) and Charles Owusu-Ansah (Ghana).

In the meantime we would like to thank everybody who sent us their CVs and offered themselves to serve the Lord in our Office. We will keep your details on file and may be in touch with you when future vacancies arise.

Australia



Fr Bill Adams a Redemptorist from California gave a five day retreat from 18th-23th January to 300 delegates from various States. The theme was the Beatitudes. Each day there was a refreshing program of praise and worship, teaching, adoration, sharing over lunch and a Eucharist.

In his teaching about the Sermon on the Mount, which includes the Beatitudes, Fr Bill highlighted that the sermon is addressed to people who want to be healed by Jesus but not take on the values of the Kingdom of God. Each Beatitude deals with principles and attitudes, not with rules and regulations.

When asked for their experience of the Retreat, 30% indicated that they had received some emotional or physical healing. Praise the Lord!

Bolivia



The 21st International meeting of CCR Youth was held from 7th to 11th January in the town of Puerto Juarez, where more than 400 young people took an active part. The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of fraternity and gladness in which the young people had a powerful experience of the love of God in their lives. The speakers included Silvia Vera, Maria Curuchet, José Martínez and Francisco Bermeo.

Bosnia-Herzegovina



The representatives of the CCR of Bosnia-Herzegovina met for the first time on April 21st in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in order to get

to know each other better and to establish better lines of communications between themselves.

The ostensible reason for the meeting was the visit of Oreste Pesare, Director of ICCRS, who, in the evening, also met about 500 delegates from CCR groups.

The main theme of the meeting was “The call of God to serve our fellow people and the nature of the CCR in the Church today”.

The meeting was also attended by mission teams from Medjugorje and Mostar, and by Josip Lončar and Fr Dražen Radigović, members of the “Good Shepherd” prayer community of Croatia, in which country the Lord has already done a great deal to promote the CCR.

United States



In January, several leadership groups, representing various streams and expressions of CCR met in Miami Florida for three days of prayer and discussion about what The Lord might be saying to the CR. It was also a time to get acquainted

with leaders from various streams who do not know each other. The time was powerful, with a word from The Lord, encouraging members of the Renewal to be bolder and more joyful in their work. There was also a sense of spiritual warfare, but the leaders were encouraged to keep their eyes fixed on God. Many of the organizations brought young leaders with them.

Venezuela



The first Latin American Charismatic Meeting of religious organised by the National Service Committee of the CCR of Venezuela which took place from 14th to 17th April in Los Teques, near Caracas, was a great blessing. 71 religious attended from more than 32 congregations.

The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Jaime Kelly, the deputy consultant to the CCR of Venezuela, and concelebrated, amongst others, by Fr Stephen Harney and Fr Gilbert Ocano both of whom were speakers together with Elena Betancourt. The closing Eucharist was celebrated by Mons. Ovidio Pérez, bishop of Tejes.

Catholic Fraternity

On Saturday April 17th, at the Palazzo della Cancelleria, Vatican City the first meeting of the European Moderators of Catholic Fraternity was held. The meeting was presided over by H.E. Most Rev. Msgr. Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Representatives of the New Communities of France, Italy, and Ireland participated as well as representatives of Communities from Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Mexico, operating in Europe. At the end of the meeting there was a celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Damaso celebrated by H.E. Most Rev. Msgr. Renato Boccardo, Bishop and Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication and in charge of the Office of State Secretariat with Special Assignments. The organization of the meeting was cared by the ICCRS Office Staff in a spirit of service and love.

JESUS AUTHORITY

BY JAMT

JESUS GAVE AUTHORITY TO THE APOSTLES TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION (LG 25)

ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME

AS THE FATHER SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

MT 28:18-20:21

IN THE BEGINING HE APPOINTED PETER AS SHEPHERD OF THE WHOLE CHURCH THE POPE (LG 19)

MT 16:18-19

YOU ARE PETER AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH. AND THE GATES OF HELL WILL NEVER OVERPOWER IT. I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (MT. 16:18-19)

UNITED WITH PETER, THE APOSTLES AND HIS SUCCESSORS TODAY, THE BISHOPS RECEIVE THE GIFT OF RECONCILIATION (LG 22)

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. IF YOU FORGIVE ANYONE'S SINS, THEY ARE FORGIVEN; IF YOU RETAIN ANYONE'S SINS, THEY ARE RETAINED

(JN. 20: 22-23)

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES "ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO YOU LISTENS TO ME; ANYONE WHO REJECTS YOU REJECTS ME..." LK 10:16

AND YOU..., WHO DO YOU LISTEN TO?