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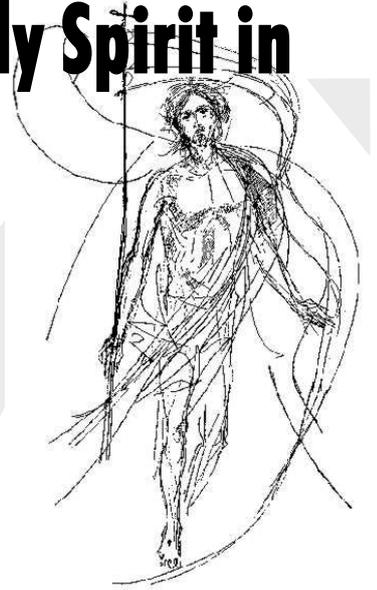
ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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September - December 2004

The wise steward:

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11: 1-4 *by Mark Nimo*



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“A shoot will spring from the stock of Jesse; a new shoot will grow from his roots. On him will rest the spirit of Yahweh, the spirit of wisdom and insight, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. His judgment will not be by appearances, his verdict not be given on hearsay. He will judge the weak with integrity and give fair sentence for the humblest in the land. He will strike the country with the rod of his mouth and the breath of his lips will bring death to the wicked” (Is 11: 1-4).

We find this prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in Jesus, Son of Mary, and Son of the living God. All the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit listed above were fully present and operative in the life of Jesus Christ. They are namely, the spirit of Yahweh, the spirit of wisdom and insight, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.

Jesus, quoting from the prophecy of Isaiah while in the synagogue in Nazareth (Lk 4: 16ff) said: “The spirit of the Lord Yahweh is on me for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted” (Is 61:1). With confidence Jesus spoke as all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. He said: “This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening”.

Through baptism every Christian is grafted onto Jesus Christ, the true vine. It is this powerful imagery that is used by Jesus in the gospel of John, chapter 15, when he says:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser” (Jn 15: 1). The Christian life therefore takes its source, life and nourishment in Jesus Christ. He shares his life, gifts, holiness, and mission with all who are baptized into Him. Jesus continues his teaching and says: “Remain in me, as I am in you. As a branch cannot bear

fruit all by itself, unless it remains part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me” (Jn 15: 4).

A NEW NATURE:

“A shoot will spring from the stock of Jesse; a new shoot will grow from his roots...” It is important to mention that God seeks to restore and make all things new in Jesus Christ. What will be the nature of this shoot that will spring from the stock of Jesse? It will be “a new shoot” that will grow from his roots. Amongst those names listed in the genealogy of Jesus, as recorded in the gospel of Matthew, is David, whose father was Jesse. In spite of David's weakness and sin God still called him 'a man after my own heart', because he repented and sought to live in right relationship with God.

Another name that appears in the list of ancestors of Jesus is Rehab the prostitute (Jos 6: 17). How could people of such questionable character be part of the ancestry of Jesus? God can heal our families and free us. In order to experience the power and presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we need to seek on-going renewal and repentance; a new nature; a new relationship with the Lord.

“So for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order is gone and a new being is there to see” (2 Co 5: 17).

The wise steward is one who seeks this constant renewal which finds expression in a life of holiness, prayer, faith, hope, witness and charity. Our transformation is essentially the work of God but he requires our co-operation. We need to give him permission to renew us and set us free.

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

“On him will rest the spirit of Yahweh, the spirit of wisdom and insight, the spirit of counsel and

power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh”.

Through the waters of baptism we are reborn and the spirit of Yahweh takes possession of our souls. God imparts the spirit of his very life into all the baptized. This is what makes us children of God rather than just mere creatures of God. The spirit of Yahweh is the gift of his love and grace poured into our hearts. The spirit of Yahweh is the spirit of holiness. God is holy and desires to restore his children to holiness (ref. 1 Jn 3: 1-2).

When we walk daily in this new life of baptism, God gives us wisdom and insight, since he is the source and fountain of all wisdom. This is part of the Spirit he shares with his children. In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is personified (ref. Pr 8: 1-4).

The challenge is for all to ask for this wisdom of God. “Any of you who lacks wisdom must ask God, who gives to all generously and without scolding; it will be given” (Jm 1: 5). Seeking the wisdom of God is especially vital in this day and age, when we are confronted with so many philosophies, ideas and ways of thinking that are often contrary to the ways of God. When writing to Timothy, the apostle Paul said: “That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands. God did not give us a spirit of timidity,

(continued on page 4)

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13th day of blessing : Patience

by Nicholas Chia

“‘Patience’ is manifested in God’s nature. ‘Yahweh passed before him and proclaimed ‘Yahweh, Yahweh, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness’ (Ex 34:6). We also call to mind the story of Abraham interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah...”

“...have we not ourselves gone through these crises? Do you remember the time when you were first set afire by the Holy Spirit and members of your family, especially those closest to you, misunderstood you and said nasty things about your new-found relationship with the Lord? Patience saw many Of us through!”

Each one of us, who is trying to live a Christian life and be an effective witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ, needs “Patience”. It is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. My firm belief is that each of us needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the source of our “Patience”. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal 5:22).

We learn from St. Paul’s letter to Timothy (2Tim 3:16) that “All scripture is inspired by God and useful for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be upright. This is how someone who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work”. So we will use scripture here to help us to learn more about this particularly precious fruit of the Holy Spirit.

First and foremost, God is the source of “Patience”, “and may He who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other”. (...) Remember the 12 days of Blessings last year? Those of us who were on pilgrimage experienced the black out; the worst in Italy’s history!! Were we not tested to see if we could be patient? During the journey, traveling from point to point, were there not many who wanted to switch buses so as to get to our destinations on time? After all, we were all very tired!!

We must follow Christ’s example. He taught us “Patience”, in Luke 13:6, in the parable of the barren fig tree. “Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir” the man replied, “leave it alone one more year and give me time to dig around it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year, if not: then you can cut it down”.

Think of those around us, say, in our prayer groups, who are a “pain in the neck”. To get rid of them is the easy way out. But, usually, the Lord has a plan to “groom” us collectively. So pray that we may have “Patience”. I remember a sister in my prayer group. If not for this grace of “Patience” we might not have recognised her. Today she is a religious sister serving with the Missionaries of Charity in the remote and dangerous parts of Pakistan, prepared to give her life to serve the Lord!

Many of us come from very small prayer groups and we never seem to grow. There is a very important lesson here; to wait upon the Lord; to exercise “Patience”; to wait and see what happens. Isn’t it the Lord’s work, after all; building his prayer groups all over the world?

Sometimes others are suspicious of us, misunderstanding us in our various ministries. Are we patient with them?

“Patience” is manifested in God’s nature. “Yahweh passed before him and proclaimed ‘Yahweh, Yahweh, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness’” (Ex 34:6). We also call to mind the story of Abraham interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah, so that God should not to destroy them; showing us, in His response, God’s love and mercy.

“Patience” is a Christian Grace as witnessed in the life of St Paul. In 2 Cor. 6:6 we read: “we proved we are God’s servants by our purity, knowledge, patience and kindness...” In our prayer groups and communities we have to exercise this gift. None of us will be spared this “test” with our fellow members. Only the Holy Spirit will see us through and keep the community intact.

“Patience” is a necessary grace in times of crisis! “You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance (patience) will win you your lives” (Lk 21:16-19).

Have we not ourselves gone through these crises? Do you remember the time when you were first set afire by the Holy Spirit and members of your family, especially those closest to you, misunderstood you and said nasty things about your new-found relationship with the Lord? Patience saw many of us through!

“Patience” is taught as a virtue. Eph 4:2 teaches us to “Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience”.

“Patience” is needed by all of us, preachers and leaders of the Church. St Paul exhorts us to “Refute falsehood, correct errors, call to obedience...but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching” (2Tim 4:2), so that our prayer groups and communities may grow.

Hence, when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives; when Jesus is the Lord of our lives, the fruit of “Patience” will be manifested, not immediately in most cases but, day-by-day we will be pruned and moulded into the likeness of our Master and Saviour.

We are all rough diamonds! When the Lord is through with us, we will be sparkling with a beauty that others will see, and they will give praise to God.

To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 

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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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2 Mega projects from ICCRS!

International Charismatic Priests' Retreat

"Priesthood is the love of Jesus' heart"

For the first time, ICCRS in conjunction with the Catholic Community of the Beatitudes, with the cooperation of the John Mary Vianney Society offer together an International Charismatic Priests' Retreat to be held from September 25, 2005 to October 1, 2005 (in the year of the hundredth anniversary of the beatification of the Holy Priest) in Ars-sur-Formans (Ain-France). Outstanding event because the last same retreat was given in Rome (Italy) in 1990.

Cardinals, bishops, priests, invited together to deepen theme: "Priesthood is the love of Jesus' heart", to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and to spend this week close to the holy cur, to Jesus' heart and the Virgin Mary, led by Sr Briedge McKenna, osc and Fr Kevin Scallon, cm and many other speakers and celebrants.

Further information and registration:

Retreat Ars 2005
 Domaine de Burtin
 F-41600 NOUAN-LE-FUZELIER (France)
 Phone: 33(0)254-88-78-47, Fax: 33(0)2-54-88-05-79

International Institute for Catholic Charismatic Leadership Formation®

Responding to the call which Pope John Paul II made in the year 2000 to all movements concerning the urgency and necessity of forming disciples in accordance with the heart of Jesus, ICCRS has developed an International Institute for the Catholic Charismatic Leadership Formation based on the theology of the Holy Spirit and on Charismatic spirituality!

The nature of the Institute: International Institute, Catholic, Charismatic, Leadership formation

The Curriculum includes:

The Person of the Holy Spirit, The theology and the experience of the Spirit, Charismatic Renewal, Charismatic Spirituality, CCR and the Magisterium of the Church, Leadership in CCR

Who can attend these courses? People of all ages delegated from charismatic organizations worldwide who want to spend some time of their lives being formed in leadership within the CCR.

Place & Accomodation: In a Religious Institute in Rome or on the outskirts

Current information* **Period:** Begins on June 5th and concludes on June 25th 2005

Costs per person: Course fee, food and accommodation € 1.200 per person

Information & Application: ICCRS Office

* the clases will be in English. Space is limited, please register earlier.

Complete and mail it to us: with a recommendation letter from Your NSC, State or Regional Leadership or from the leaders of your community.

ICCRS International Institute - Application Form

nome _____
 surname _____
 place & date of birth _____
 title of your community (CCR): _____
 address _____
 city & country _____
 tel. _____
 fax _____
 e-mail _____

I ENCLOSE

- one photo
- breaf curriculum vitae including leadership background
- recomandation letter from the NSC of my country / from the leaders of my community
- payment of the cost to participate to the International Institute
- Please send me information about financial assistance

Retreat Ars 2005



Ars 2005

25 Sept - 1 Oct

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".



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

(Continued from page 1)

but the spirit that makes us loving, wise and self-controlled" (2 Tm 1: 6-7).

It is the wisdom of God that lights up the things of God in our lives, and brings us insight. "These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything even the depths of God" (1 Co 2: 10). The Christian life is not only a call to holiness but also a call to witness. The spirit of counsel and power is what we need for effective witness. God equips us for the task of evangelization particularly with the spirit of counsel and power. Coupled with counsel and power is also the spirit of knowledge (ref. 1 Co 2: 1-5).

The fear of the Lord is finally mentioned also a gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift would always lead us to live in awe and wonder of God. A heart of gratitude and appreciation is what the fear of the Lord evokes in our hearts. The fear of the Lord also means a hatred of evil. ("To fear Yahweh is to hate evil". Pr 8: 13). (ref. Pr 1: 17).

CONCLUSION:

The ultimate purpose of the Christian life is union with God. This is attained as we daily live in communion with God, so that our character is transformed into the image of Christ. We cannot attain this union by our own strength. It all depends on God, but we have to cooperate with God to let it all happen. We should be grateful to God for lavishing on us the very gifts we need in order to become like him. We first receive everything as gift before we pursue the task of cooperating with God to perfect his presence in us. These gifts sanctify us and make us holy. The gifts also equip us for mission and witness to the world around us. Let us therefore allow God to fan into flames the gifts we received when hands were laid on us.

Give God permission!



Africa



From 23th to 26th August the Council of the CCR for Anglophone Africa (CONCLAA) held its conference in Namibia. The main theme was "we have never seen anything like this". Among the main speakers were: Mark Nimo from Ghana, Fr. Emmanuel Tusimime from Uganda and Oreste Pesare (ICCRS Director) from Italy. In conjunction with that, the First National Meeting of the CCR in Namibia, was also held from 27th to 29th August with the theme: "come Holy Spirit". One of the major purposes of our Director's visit to Africa was to establish the English speaking segment of the African Sub-Committee of ICCRS that, together with the French and Portuguese speaking representatives, will organize the first Pan-African Event in Accra, Ghana in 2006. In his itinerary, the Director also visited the Republic of South Africa, where he attended some charismatic meetings organised by the local NSC.

Asia



The President of ICCRS, Mr. Allan Panozza, together with Claude Lopez (ICCRS Administrator & Events) met with Fr. Bart Pastor (ex ICCRS Council member and current National Chairman in Philippines) in Singapore from 15th to 16th August to prepare the ICCRS sub committee for the Asia/Oceania Region. This new initiative is in line with regional structures already established in Europe and Africa. These sub committees are composed of the ICCRS Councillors from that area, together with NSC representatives

from the countries in those regions. Also the first major event for Asia / Oceania will be a joint initiative by the Philippines and ICCRS, to be held in Manila during Pentecost, 15th-18th May 2005. The Congress will be chaired by ex ICCRS Council member Fr. Bart Pastor. The theme will be "Communion and Mission in the Eucharist with Mary by the Holy Spirit". Let us pray for the success of this important congress.

Europe



A European Charismatic leaders consultation was held in Prague last 9 -12 September. 21 countries were officially represented with a total of more than 90 delegates. This important meeting was organised by ESCI (European Sub-Committee of ICCRS), that is doing an excellent job in coordinating and promoting CR in Europe. Together with the national representatives (NSCs: NSCs, HCs: (Head Contacts) and CORs: Correspondents) also other Charismatic networks were invited to the meeting: the Catholic Fraternity, the Sword of the Spirit and some international Communities). Bp. Joseph Clemens, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity was one of the main speakers. Also Mr. Oreste Pesare attended the meeting and in his role as the Director of ICCRS addressed the assembly on the challenges and projects that are actually facing ICCRS, especially the International Institute for Catholic Charismatic Leadership Formation. The next European event will be held in September 2005 in Budapest, where about 1000 people are expected. Praise the Lord!

HOLY ADVENT
and
Merry Christmas!

LOVE CAME TO REIGN IN OUR LIVES...

"Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life"
Jn. 3:16

HOLY SPIRIT GIFTS (JOHN PAUL II PENTECOST 1989)

BY JAMT

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL REST UPON HIM A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, A SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND POWER, A SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND FEAR OF THE LORD. Is 11,1-2

WISDOM: THE TRULY WISE IS NOT THE ONES WHO KNOWS THINGS, BUT THE ONE WHO EXPERIENCES THEM AND LEARNS THROUGH THEM.

UNDERSTANDING: INTUITION IS THE DIVINE TRUTH...WHICH MAKES OUR EYES CLEAR TO FOCUS BEYOND HUMAN THINGS.

ADVICE: IT IS GIVEN TO CHRISTIANS TO ENLIGHTEN THEIR CONSCIENCES IN EVERYDAY MATTERS OF MORALITY.

FORTITUDE: SUPERNATURAL DRIVE WHICH GIVES STRENGTH IN THE SOUL, NOT ONLY TO MARTYRS, BUT TO ALL OF US IN OUR DEALINGS WITH COMMON DIFFICULTIES.

KNOWLEDGE: THE GRACE BY WHICH WE ARE GIVEN TO KNOW THE REAL VALUE OF ALL CREATURES AND OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

MERCY: THE SPIRIT WHICH HEALS OUR HEART OF ALL HARDNESS AND OPENS IT TO TENDERNESS TOWARDS GOD AND TO BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

"IF YOU THEN, EVIL AS YOU ARE, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD THINGS TO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE WILL THE HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!" (Lk 11:12)