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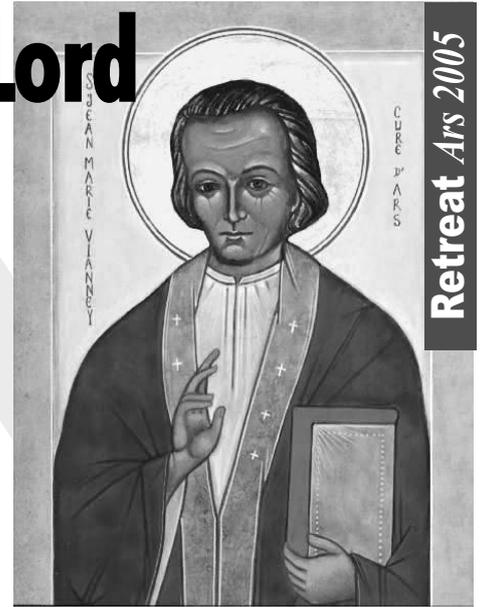
ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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March - April 2005

Cathy Brenti: Smoking for the Lord

by Cathy Brenti*



Retreat Ars 2005

This issue

Cathy Brenti:
Smoking for the Lord

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No, she does not smoke, but she is on fire to tell everyone she knows (and even those she doesn't) in any one of the 4 languages she speaks, that there's a fire on the horizon: the Holy Spirit's fire, that is.

Cathy Brenti, 51, a spitfire of a woman, with white hair, has her brown eyes fixed on the upcoming International retreat for Priests in Ars, France, that she is organizing for the end of September 2005. The retreat is designed to renew the fire of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all who attend. Two thousands priests are expected. This is an international retreat organized by a woman and given by a woman¹. And who said that the Church does not like women?

In her foggy forest headquarters, in the spiritual centre of Nouan-le-Fuzelier, France, this member of the Beatitudes Community of twenty-six years, a mother of three, among whom the eldest is a Legionary of Christ, tries to explain how an emancipated protestant became a catholic and wanders today from the Roman Curia to the Australian bush, in the service of the Church.

Her father, a Jewish surgeon, converted in captivity during World War II, because of the testimony of an ardent protestant pastor. But if the young Cathy, born in Nancy, France in 1953, frequented the protestant chaplaincy in the turmoil of the hippy years, it was more for the beautiful eyes of a certain Claude than for Jesus.

In an Upper Room an anointing flowed and the Spirit breathed. There, the famous Claude and his friends experienced a deep conversion. The embryo of the Lion of Judah Community, which later became the Beatitudes, was

there, in gestation, but who would have guessed?

The fervent group went on vacation to a rectory by the sea. Cathy preferred tourism, staying away from prayer: "until the day when I found myself trapped, during the blessing of a picnic. There, all of a sudden, a shower of blessings fell upon me! I cried for three hours in a row. It was on July 22, 1974. Nothing was ever the same again".

Cathy and Claude Brenti got married. After a long discernment, they renounced bright careers Political Sciences and Economics for him (he is today the director of the Beatitudes Community publishing house); Master in International Law and a Diploma in Interpretation for her and they joined the Community.

The Catholic faith slowly impregnated the "protestant". "The Pope, Mary, the communion of saints, this did not mean a thing for me", she remembers. "But I was burning for the Real Presence. I came to the Church because of the pain of not being allowed to receive Jesus in the Eucharist".

This spiritual daughter of Thomas Roberts (this welsh pastor was one of the pioneers of the Renewal in France, in the 70s) who suffers all the same from the separation of the Churches and also that of her parents (her father left his wife three days before his daughter's wedding), would today let herself be cut into slices for a Pope "who speaks so well of priests to women, and of women to priests".

She, who could convince Lucifer to register for a remedial class in Purgatory, offers Catholics an idea for a gift: "For Christmas (or Easter, or Pentecost, or just because), offer this retreat to your priests!" Already, in the book of graces, there are some wonderful testimonies. "An anonymous benefactor has just offered the retreat to a priest in West Timor", Cathy says. "We asked him: Why? He answered that is he a member of a group of Methodists in Singapore which has been praying for years for the renewal of the Catholic Church in Timor. One hundred small penances before the retreat: how many during, how many after? Holy Spirit, come with your fire!

For almost three years now, Cathy (vice-president of ICCRS) has been working on this project together with her Community and ICCRS.

Thanks be to God and good friends, she's been able to meet with the Congregation for the Clergy, the Council for the Laity in Rome, the French Bishops' conference, and the local bishop of Belley-Ars. All agree: this will be a wonderful opportunity for priests: John Mary Vianney, declared by the Church patron saint of all parish

(continued on page 2)

Retreat Ars 2005

Information and registration:

Retreat Ars 2005

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* With the kind authorisation of the French magazine: "Christian Family"

¹ Retreat given by Sr BriegaMcKenna, SC and Fr Kevin Scallon, OM, in Ars (France), September 25 to October 1, 2005, organized by ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services), the Beatitudes Community and the John-Mary Vianney Society.

What is it all about?

Read and pray!

Who can you invite to this outstanding event?

(continued from page 1)

priests all over the world is awaiting all his fellows in his small town of Ars, France, close to Lyon. Never has such an international priests retreat been held in Ars. Would you like your friends' priests to miss this

retreat? Whether you love your priest... or not! Give him a chance to attend. Both Sr Briega McKenna OSC and Fr Kevin Scallan CM, have given priests' retreats all over the world for over twenty-five years now.

Many priests from poor countries have requested financial support and they will not be able to come if you do not help us. Every single day, we pray and beg Saint Joseph to intercede for us and for them and bring them God's Providence. 

Retreat Ars 2005

more information about the

About the main preachers



SISTER BRIEGA MCKENNA, O.S.C was born in Ireland and entered the Sisters of St. Clare at the age of fifteen. After coming to Tampa, Florida as a teacher, she became crippled by the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. At the age of twenty-four, she was miraculously healed during the celebration of the Eucharist and some time later received, in prayer, the gift of healing for which she has become so widely known. In 1974, again during prayer, she was given a deep spiritual insight into the mystery of the call to priesthood. Since then, bishops and priests in many parts of the world have invited her to speak and minister at their retreats and conferences. Her book, "Miracles Do Happen" has been translated into many languages throughout the world. Since 1985 Sister Briega has been ministering to priests with Father Kevin Scallon.



REVEREND KEVIN SCALLON, C.M. is a Priest of the Vincentian Community who was born in Ireland. Following his ordination in 1961, he ministered in England for three years and in Nigeria for six years. In 1970, after graduating from Catholic University of America he was appointed as Spiritual Director at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin, Ireland. In 1976, Fr. Kevin started the "Intercession for Priests" in Dublin, a month-long retreat where priests could come to pray for the spiritual renewal of the priesthood. In 1982, he was appointed director of missions and retreats for the Vincentian Community. Following on that, in 1985, he began fulltime ministry to priests with Sister Briega McKenna.

and also: Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon, France; Cardinal Peter Turkson, Archbishop of Cape Coast and president the Episcopal Conference of Ghana; Monsignor Guy Bagnard, Bishope of Belley-Ars; Monsignor Joe Grech, Melbourne-Australia, representative of ICCRS in Oceania; Monsignor JP Ricard, Archbishop of Bordeaux and president of the Bishops Conference of France; Monsignor Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, Vatican; Monsignor Csaba Ternyak, Secretary for the Congregation for the Clergy, Vatican

Some of the testimonies received from priests willing to register for this outstanding event

From Mexico: I wish to reflect on my priesthood and live according to Jesus' teachings and also the needs of God's people.

From Canada: I have been a priest for twenty-four years and this retreat would deepen my sense and awareness of my priesthood. Last year a young woman came up to me at the funeral reception of a fellow priest and said she was there because of me. I didn't know her. She said I had convinced her mother not to have an abortion nineteen years before. I marvelled at how God works in us.

From the United-States: I wish to upgrade my spiritual life and learn more from people with a great spiritual wealth of experience. I desire a transformation and commitment to priestly vocation

From Mexico: I am longing for a new encounter with Jesus close to the "high priest" John Mary Vianney. I always receive special graces from spiritual retreats, which help me to go deeper into my apostolic work.

From the United-States: I have attended a past retreat by Sister McKenna & Fr. Scallan and found it helpful. I also have a devotion to Saint John Vianney. I was deployed to Iraq as a priest/chaplain with the USMC in 2003 and survived through no less than a miracle. I had invoked the BVM and Saints Raphael & Michael.

From Mexico: I wish to encounter Christ in a new way. The Eucharist has been my only strength enabling me to live my priesthood. I wish to be renewed by the intercession of John Mary Vianney.

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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ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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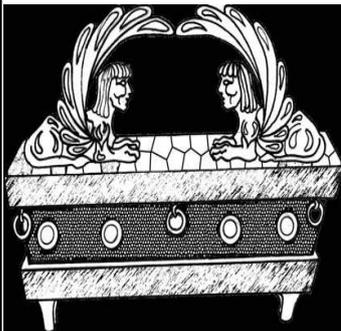
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MARY AND THE EUCHARIST

BY JAMT

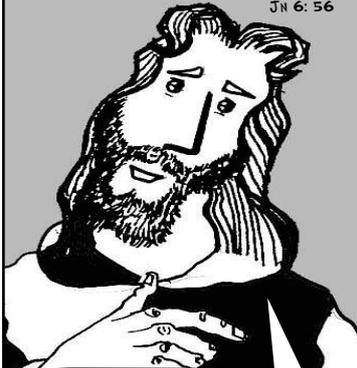
INSIDE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WAS KEPT A GOLD JAR CONTAINING THE MANNA (HB 9:4)



THE MANNA WAS THE IMAGE OF THE EUCHARIST (SEE JN 6:32)

LIKE THE ARK, WE ALSO WANT TO RECEIVE JESUS INSIDE OURSELVES. HE SAYS:

JN 6: 56



"WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD LIVES IN ME AND I LIVE IN HIM"

BUT WHO DOES THE ARK REPRESENT? REVELATION 11:19 ANSWERS: "THEN THE SANCTUARY OF GOD IN HEAVEN OPENED AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT COULD BE SEEN INSIDE IT"



"A GREAT SIGN APPEARED IN HEAVEN: A WOMAN ROBED WITH THE SUN... SHE WAS PREGNANT" (REV 12:1-5) SHE IS... "MARY".

THEN, LITERALLY FROM WITHIN HER, JESUS WAS BORN, THE LIVING BREAD DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN.



COURAGE! YOU TOO CAN RECEIVE IT. BODY, SOUL AND DIVINITY, IN THE EUCHARIST.