



International Catholic
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Services

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The Burning Bush: **A project in CCR for the Church**

by *Kim Kollins**

This issue

**The Burning Bush:
A project in CCR for the Church**

"Burning Bush" Experiences

Come to Ars 2005

**Members of the Council:
Walter Zimmerman**

**Strip cartoon:
Eucharistic Adoration -
Charismatic experiences**

LEADERSHIP FORMATION

**The year of the Eucharist:
The Eucharist: A Mystery
of light**

**CCR and other Christians:
True and false ecumenism**

Questions to ICCRS

The spirituality of Pentecost belongs to the whole church. The CCR exemplifies this spirituality in its life and expressions. Pope John Paul II further confirmed this at the Solemn Vespers of Pentecost 2004 in his homily to all the church, "Thanks to the Charismatic Movement, many Christians, men and women, youths and adults, have rediscovered Pentecost as a living and present reality in their daily life. I desire that the spirituality of Pentecost be spread in the Church, as a renewed thrust of prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. In this regard, I encourage the initiative known as 'Burning Bush', promoted by Renewal in the Spirit. This involves incessant adoration, day and night, before the Blessed Sacrament; it is an invitation to the faithful to 'return to the Upper Room', so that, united in contemplation of the Eucharistic Mystery, they may intercede for full Christian unity and for the conversion of sinners. I warmly hope that this initiative will lead many to rediscover the gifts of the Spirit, whose original source is Pentecost".¹

The Burning Bush Initiative affords the chance to respond to the call of New Evangelization, enabling the Church to encounter anew an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, thereby helping the "culture of Pentecost" to take shape. The first wellspring of renewal action is prayer, which connects us with the Spirit of Christ who is "He who renews the face of the earth" (Blessed Elena Guerra).

The Burning Bush Initiative desires to help the people of God experience a Pentecost not only of a moment or a day, but a permanent Pentecost, according to the intuition of Blessed Elena Guerra who, at the end of the nineteenth century, urged Pope Leo XIII to lead the Church back to the Cenacle/Upper Room of Jerusalem, for the Church to be enlightened again and again and

burn like a Burning Bush. In the first of Elena's twelve confidential letters to Pope Leo the XIII she wrote:

"Holy Father, the world is evil, the spirit of Satan triumphs in our perverted society and tears away from the Heart of Jesus a multitude of souls; and in this dreadful state of things Christians lend no thought to addressing unanimous supplications to He Who can "renew the face of the earth". People recommend all sorts of devotions, but they are silent about that one devotion which, according to the Holy Spirit of the Church, should be first and foremost. People recite so many Novenas, but that one Novena, which by order of Our Savior in person, was recited even by the most Holy Mary and by all the Apostles, is now almost forgotten. Preachers praise all the Saints, but when do we ever hear a sermon in honor of the Holy Spirit, He who shapes the Saints? ...Therefore, oh Holy Father, you alone can make Christians return to the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit may return to us; defeat the evil reign of the devil, and grant us the long sought renewal of the face of the earth" (April 17th, 1895).²

The Burning Bush Initiative is a response to Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, "Our Christian communities must become genuine "schools" of Prayer, where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the hearer truly "falls in love"...It was Peter who spoke the work of faith: "At your word I will let down the nets"



As this millennium begins, allow the successor of Peter to invite the whole Church to make this act of faith, which expresses itself in a renewed commitment to prayer. "Duc in Altum" (Lk 5:4). Furthermore to the CCR, the Holy Father said, "put out into the deep of prayer" in order to "put out into the deep of mission".

In the last century, hundreds of millions in every part of Christianity have encountered God in an Upper Room experience of a personal Pentecost, "baptism in the Spirit"; a concrete experience of the "grace of Pentecost" in which the working of the Holy Spirit has become a reality experienced in our lives and in faith communities. The Burning Bush Initiative helps to continue to fan the flame of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the service of the Church. We are in a time where God is calling his people to return anew to the Upper Room.

Let each of us be ambassadors of the Holy Spirit and of the spirituality of Pentecost. Let us live out of the wellspring of prayer in adoration and intercession for the whole Church according to the grace we have received in our personal Pentecost experience.

Retreat Ars 2005

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* Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins is a member of ESCI (European Sub-Committees of ICCRS).

¹ see ICCRS newsletter, special issue July/August 2004

² Elena Guerra (1835-1914) was beatified by John XXIII under the title of "apostle of the devotion to the Holy Spirit"

"Burning Bush" Experiences

by Kim Kollins

"Oh, if only... unanimous and fervent prayers could be raised to Heaven in every part of Christendom, as they were once in the Cenacle (upper room) of Jerusalem for a rekindling of the Divine Spirit"
(Blessed Elena Guerra)

Many testimonies have arisen about "Burning Bush" Experiences, which are invitations "to return to the Cenacle" in adoration and intercession. A return not of nostalgia, looking for the beginning experiences of the CCR but one of maturity with a servant's heart, understanding what it is to experience the power of the Spirit and His gifts in prayer, in united contemplation of the Eucharistic mystery. Our challenge is to intercede beyond what is so often our normal scope of prayer; family, friends, our group or community, to incessant adoration in which we may intercede with great fervour by means of the Spirit for the renewal of the Church, for full Christian unity, for the conversion of sinners, and for a renewal of society and thereby "a renewal of the face of the earth", uniting ourselves with the intentions of the Holy Father.

The "Burning Bush" initiative has spread throughout the world, in Europe, The Far East, Africa, the Americas etc., since it's beginning during Easter in Rome, 1997. The call of the "Burning Bush" contains a common vision that has many varied applications by the various groups responding to it, whether it is in parishes, or on a diocesan or citywide level, or in ecclesial movements or new communities. The Holy Spirit's leadership has been varied and different in "Burning Bush" Pentecost Novenas and in other "Burning Bush" Events, with each experience having its own uniqueness.

Burning Bush Pentecost Novena 2005

This year throughout the world a new Burning Bush Pentecost Novena is being prayed. On the prompting of Blessed Elena, Pope Leo XIII asked all the faithful to celebrate a solemn novena (nine days of prayer) perpetually between the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost for the unity of Christianity. The Burning Bush Novena combines the invocation to the Holy Spirit with daily themes of intercession. It has already been translated into seven languages including Swahili. (www.burningbush.beatitudes.org)

Europe

It was in Europe where the intense promotion of the "Burning Bush" Pentecost Novena first began, with three groups responding in 2001 to the call for Pentecost; Renewal in the Spirit (RnS), Italy; the National Service Committee (NSC) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in Austria and St. Leu, a French Parish in Paris. All these groups have continued this response for the last 4 years. In the European ICCRS-conference in Czestochowa (Poland, 2002), we had an intercession workshop with testimonies from each country, where they shared their 2001-2002 experiences of the

"Burning Bush" Pentecost Novenas. In the case of the RnS, it was the testimony of the Bologna group that was given. Also, in addition to other countries, Belgium and Germany began their nationwide promotion of the Pentecost Novena in 2002. In Poland, the call of "Burning Bush" was launched in December 2003, at the 7th Charismatic Forum organized by the Jesuits' groups of Lodz. At Pentecost 2004, they gathered in the church every evening for adoration that lasted 2 hours. Since then, one of four different CCR groups in the parish have taken turns to lead the adoration and intercession. There were at least 400 people present every evening. The European CCR National Service Committees have linked together since 2003 in a united effort to promote the Pentecost Novena in each country.

Youth

The German CCR Young Council implemented the "Burning Bush Experience" into their youth work in 2004, at their "Jump", youth conference. They organized "Burning Bush" Prayer Vigils at their leaders' gatherings before the conference and during the conference held a "Burning Bush" Tent of Prayer event (night and

day). At their autumn youth leaders' meeting, they deepened the theme of the Burning Bush call and initiated a "Burning Bush" prayer campaign called Operation Trailblazer 2005, for the CCR National Conference and the World Youth Day. (www.erneuerung.de)

America

An upcoming event will be held in Miami this Pentecost, the 2005 Cenacle of Prayer of America. During this Year of the Eucharist, a "return to the Cenacle" is planned, where there will be 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration and intercession for America, including a Eucharist procession through downtown Miami. It will end with a grand celebration of Pentecost "to invoke upon ourselves and upon the entire church, an abundant outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit", (Pope John Paul II's invitation to Pentecost Solemn Vespers, 2004). It will include the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America, all responding to the (former) Holy Father's invitation "I invite individuals, communities and ecclesial groups...to strengthen through prayers the spiritual bond between all American Catholics". (Ecclesia in America, 76) (www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

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Worldwide
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Ars 2005

25 Sept - 1 Oct

preached by
Sr Briega McKenna
Fr Kevin Scallon

Retreat Ars 2005

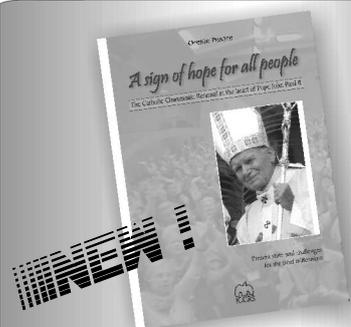
Programme includes: Teachings, daily Mass presided by cardinals and bishops, adoration and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer vigils inspired by the holy Curé of Ars and the Virgin Mary, confessions, sharing witnesses, liturgy of the hours, rosary, praise and worship...

Further information and registrations

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"A sign of hope for all people"

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Walter Zimmerman Member of the ICCRS Council

He was born in 1967 in the city of Viña del Mar, Chile. In the world of work, his whole life has been dedicated to building construction, as a Civil Engineer. In his spiritual life, he has built a ministry and kept watch over his flock, so that every soul among them might meet Jesus. In 1990, he was baptised in the Holy Spirit and became a diocesan, regional, and national leader of the youth section of the CCR in Chile. In 1996, Walter gave up a year of his life to the Lord and went to Bogota, Colombia to study the sacred scriptures and to evangelise on radio and television in the programme, God's Minute. During this year, he lived with Fr. Diego Jaramillo, who remains his spiritual father today. Whilst there, he got to know Vanessa Rincón, a Colombian, whom he married in 1997. They have a beautiful 5-year-old daughter called Gabriela Andrea (Gabrielita). Returning to Chile he took

part as one of the organisers of the 1998 Continental Meeting of young people. In 1999 he was chosen to coordinate the CCR in the diocese of Valparaiso and in may 2000, he was elected to be the national coordinator of the CCR in Chile, a position which he held until May 2004. From August 2002, he has been the Vice President of the Catholic Charismatic Council of Latin America (CONCCLAT), and from March 2004 he has been a member of ICCRS

With Vanessa and Gabrielita, he participates in a community of family alliances in the parish of the Mother of God of Viña del Mar. His passion is preaching and the formation of leaders and speakers. He has a well-developed Ministry of evangelisation in Chile and in other Latin American countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Spanish speaking United States. ☺



Thanks!
to
John Paul II
&
Benedict XVI

JESUS SAID TO SIMON PETER, "SIMON SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE OTHERS DO? HE ANSWERED, 'YES LORD, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU'. JESUS SAID TO HIM, 'FEED MY SHEEP'.

(JOHN 21:15)

We want to express our joy and gratitude to our beloved Shepherds. May the Holy Spirit continue to give us, through our Pope, the grace and the zeal to follow Jesus with all our heart so that we can become holy.

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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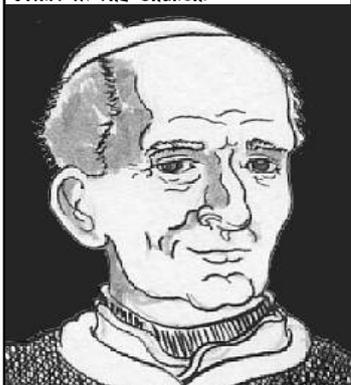
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EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - CHARISMATIC EXPERIENCES

BY JAMT

AT THE START OF THE 20TH CENTURY, SISTER ELENA GUERRA WROTE TO POPE LEO XIII ASKING FOR FERVENT PRAYERS TO RESTORE THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH.



SHE WANTED ALL CHRISTIANS TO BE UNITED IN CONTINUOUS PRAYER, JUST AS THE APOSTLES AND MARY WERE UNITED AT PENTECOST, AND SO TO BRING ABOUT A PERMANENT CENACLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM.



"WITH ONE HEART ALL THESE JOINED CONSTANTLY IN PRAYER TOGETHER"



NOWADAYS WE SEE THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL RESPONDING MORE AND MORE TO THIS WISH, PRAYING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - IN DIVERSE PLACES - IN CONTINUOUS ADORATION, DAY AND NIGHT, FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD.



YOU TOO! JOIN THE MILLIONS OF CATHOLICS AROUND THE WORLD WHO ADORE THE LORD, INTERCEDING THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR A PERMANENT PENTECOST FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD.