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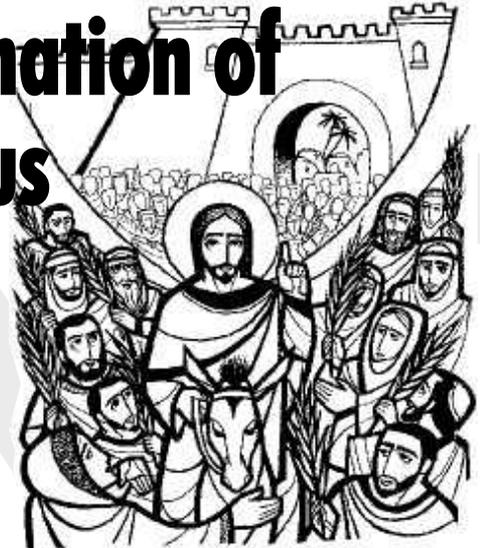
# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXI, Number 5

October - December 2005

## CR and the proclamation of the lordship of Jesus

by Cyril John



### This issue

CR and the proclamation of the lordship of Jesus

Worldwide Priests' Retreat, Ars 2005 Report

Celebrating 40st Anniversary of CCR worldwide

Members of the Council: Fr. Renato Tisot

Strip cartoon: Jesus, the Lord

### LEADERSHIP FORMATION

The year of the Eucharist: The Eucharist: Origin and project of mission

The Cross of the Renewal

Questions to ICCRS

The Pentecost resulted in Peter standing with the eleven proclaiming the death and resurrection of Christ: "This man...you crucified and killed...But God raised him up, having freed him from death..." (Ac 2:23-24). The Church's first mission as it came into existence on the day of Pentecost was pronouncing the kerygma by Peter: "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Ac 2:36).

The Kerygma of the Apostles proclaimed Christ in his three saving actions: death (Ac 2:23; 3:15,18; 4:10; 5:30; 10:39; 13:28), resurrection (Ac 2:24; 3:26; 4:10; 5:30b; 10:40-41; 13:31) and glorification (Ac 2:33,36; 3:13,14; 4:11; 5:31; 10:36,42; 13:23) through his three titles: Saviour, Lord and Messiah. These are contained in six kerygmatic discourses, the first five preached by St. Peter and the last by St. Paul. Therefore, the Church was born proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus. When the people from "every nation under heaven" who had gathered there heard the proclamation "they were cut to the heart" and they asked the Apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Then Peter told them: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ" (Ac 2:37-38). During the first proclamation itself three thousand persons received the Good News and were baptized and added to the community of believers. The Pentecost equipped them to proclaim the kerygma boldly.

The CCR is the answer of the prayer of the Church for a new Pentecostal 'outpouring of the Holy Spirit': "Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost". The Ark and Dove' Retreat House in Duquesne University in Pittsburg was the Upper Room for the new Pentecost in February 1967. Don't you think that God has a specific plan for bringing about such a Renewal in the Church?

CCR should produce results that are identical to the First Pentecost 2000 years ago. It is meant to instil extraordinary zeal, commitment and power in our proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus just as it was witnessed in St. Peter.

One of the evident fruits of Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the desire to bear a living and dynamic witness to the Good News of salvation. Others respond more readily to the Gospel when it is accompanied by the witness of lives changed through the power of the Spirit. In India, the CCR has succeeded to a large extent to present and proclaim the Good News to nominal Christians and to people of other faiths and denominations. There are more than 100 retreat centers in India where proclamation of the Word takes place on a regular basis. The need for healing and deliverance has been drawing thousands of people to such centres where Jesus is proclaimed as the only Lord and Saviour and the Lord confirms the Good News through signs and wonders. The Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor in Southern India is a unique proclamation centre in the world that conducts weekly residential retreats simultaneously in six languages for up to 35,000 people. The people flock irrespective of their faith and denomination. Another centre is Matridham Ashram, Varanasi, the heartland of Hinduism in Northern India, where more than 10,000 'krist bhaktas' (non-baptised devotees of Christ) flock every Sunday to listen to proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus.

"It is the Holy Spirit who, today just as at the beginning of the Church, acts in every evangeliser who allows himself to be possessed and led by Him. The Holy Spirit places on his lips the words which he could not find by himself and at the same time the

Holy Spirit pre-disposes the soul of the hearer to be open and receptive to the Good News and to the Kingdom being proclaimed" (EN 75). One of the central goals of the CCR specifically mentioned in the Statutes of ICCRS approved by the Vatican is: "To foster the work of evangelisation in the power of the Holy Spirit, including the evangelisation of the unchurched, the re-evangelisation of nominal Christians, the evangelisation of culture and social structures."

Today there are many obstacles like spiritual deafness and insensitivity coming in the way of evangelisation. More than ever before there is urgency to re-evangelise the baptised. The CCR therefore has the gigantic mission of proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus in the power of the Spirit to the nominal Christians as well as the unchurched.

Let the prayer and exhortation of Pope John Paul II during the Vigil of Pentecost in 1998 in St. Peter's Square be our prayer and challenge: "Come Holy Spirit and make ever more fruitful the charisms you have bestowed on us. Give new strength and missionary zeal to these sons and daughters of yours who have gathered here. Open their hearts: renew their Christian commitment in the world. Make them courageous messengers of the Gospel, witnesses to the risen Jesus Christ, the Redeemer and Saviour of men; strengthen their love and their fidelity to the Church... Today, from this Square, Christ says to each of you: 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.' He is counting on every one of you, and so is the Church!"

*"In India, the CCR has succeeded to a large extent to present and proclaim the Good News to nominal Christians and to people of other faiths and denominations. There are more than 100 retreat centers in India where proclamation of the Word takes place on a regular basis..."*

## Worldwide Priests' Retreat

# REPORT

by Fr Francois-Xavier, Moderator of the Beatitudes Community



# Ars 2005

25 Sept - 1 Oct

Was it really sensible to organise an international retreat in Ars sur Fromans, little village lost in the Dombes and populated with hardly a few hundred of inhabitants? If we just look at the logistic side of it, obviously not! And yet Saint John Mary Vianney, who was parish - priest there from 1818 to 1859 was praying that crowds come again when the flow of pilgrims was slowing down. So perhaps it is him who placed into the heart of the Beatitudes Community, in collaboration with ICCRS and the John Mary Vianney Society, this conviction to invite the priests from all over the world and to ask sister Briedge to lead a 6 day retreat.

The opportunity was beautiful. Indeed, this year is the hundredth anniversary of John Mary Vianney's beatification. 853 priests, from 71 different countries, heard the call to plunge into prayer to allow the Holy Spirit to renew them in their love for priesthood and in their Christian identity.

Wasn't it already an amazing sign that they come to listen the Word of God, leaded by a consecrated sister, Sister Briedge? But they were not alone. Many bishops and two cardinals took part in this spiritual event taking place just before the synod about the Eucharist which concluded the year of the Eucharist. About a hundred of laic were busy in different services as well as in the broadcasting of the whole day on the radio.

Bishop Bagnard said he had already received many testimony of radio listeners who were very grateful. We are not surprised since a man who hadn't been to confession for 40 years, listening by chance the teaching of Sister Briedge on the radio rushed to Ars to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

As well as this woman who write us that she has listened to the retreat through internet:

"I listened to it while working (I'm working for Father X, missionary in Bolivia). I also listened to the last evening with the testimonies. I just want to testimony that the Holy Spirit worked within me through this retreat. I prayed and praised with you all, I felt a great inner peace during the whole week (even though it was full on after a fortnight holiday). I really felt so in communion with all these priests. I can't find the words to express the joy I felt while listening to this retreat, neither to tell you my gratitude. God was really there, that's for sure!"

We can sum up what we lived in three stages: Conversion, going deeper, sending out.

The teachings given were very concrete and direct. They were the application in our priestly life, of the words of the Gospel to hear again the call of God to choose holiness. Each day, one or several saints were accompanying us on the top of St Cure of Ars.

Bishop Guy Gaucher, who took with him the relics of the little flower (St Therese of Lisieux), helped us realised how she had offered up her life for priests.

Here is the testimony of an Anglican priest.

*«The effect of soaking in the presence of the Lord day after day touches parts of you and releases things. The highpoint for me was the Thursday morning (the session when the priests were prayed for). I was on my knees for most of this time as I felt wave after wave of holiness wash over me. It was at the end of this time, with many tears and even a time of laughter, that I had that beautiful encounter with Sainte Therese. This was unexpected and remarkable and I am still pinching myself. It was momentary, but it went deep. I sense many levels of meaning in her greeting and some will take some time to*

*unravel. It felt a little like, upon later reflection, the burning coal touching Isaiah's lips. There was an impartation of some kind and I recall feeling immense grace flowing over me after this. This session as so powerful that I found it hard to walk afterwards - it was like walking on the moon....*

*It surely sounds strange for an Anglican to be encountering St Therese...*

*My people wanted to know what had happened to me as I was somewhat different and infected by the joy and blessing that was at Ars last Sunday. I prayed a blessing over everyone at communion and they received this well. Various people in the diocese have been quizzing me about the experience and our Mission and Renewal office is very sorry that he did not come with me».*

The going deeper made us aware that it is Jesus who works in the priest's ministry and in the sacraments. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit presence we could feel it among us telling the urgency to let ourselves be configured to Christ.

The sending out was given by the strong and warm words of Bishop Rylko, Bishop Tcherniak and Bishop Bagnard. They reminded us that if the priest receives a personal renewal in the Charismatic Renewal and is ministering there, he has a position and specific responsibilities he can't desert.

Many participants, voluntaries, and radio listeners testimony they have been renewed in hope and that is the most beautiful fruit. Christ is really the One acting today among us in the Church.

So it is thanksgiving that is raising from our hearts for all those who made this moment of grace possible. 

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Due to financial difficulties, ICCRS is unable to fulfil all of the many projects which we believe the Lord has given us to do.

Please begin a program of intercessory prayer in your community and prayer groups that the Lord provide financial resources to allow ICCRS to proceed to this service.

Thank you for joining us in prayer!!!

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 Palazzo della Cancelleria  
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## Renato Tisot Member of the ICCRS Council

**F**ather Renato born at Colma di Barbiano, in Italy, in 1935, he undertook his formation at the Seminary of Trento up until 1959, the year of his ordination as a priest.

Alternating his pastoral ministry with periods of study he graduated in modern literature from the Catholic University and then specialised in fundamental theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He is currently a teacher in catholic schools and Vicerector and lecturer at the Seminary of Trento.

In 1970 he visited the United States where he came across the newly born CCR. He became enthusiastically involved in it and took part in the first great priests' retreats in New Jersey and Ohio. He also helped to found and participated in charismatic prayer groups in New York State and later in Florida.

He returned to Italy (Trento) in 1978 and started a full time programme of prayer and evangelisation. He opened a house of prayer with an existing vocational community and helped to spread the Renewal which had already begun in Italy, both locally and nationally.

Don Renato was also sent abroad on both brief and longer term charismatic missions to Australia, India and Africa.

In 1994, father Renato founded the ADIM (Alleanza Dives in Misericordia) an ecclesial canonical association recently included in the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Associations of pontifical right (CFCCF). Since 2004 he is part of the ICCRS Council, representing ICCRS in Southern Europe. 

**ESUS**  
 is the mystery of  
**Christmas!**



"A SAVIOR HAS JUST BEEN BORN IN DAVID'S TOWN, A SAVIOR WHO IS MESSIAH AND MASTER. THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE TO LOOK FOR: A BABY WRAPPED IN A BLANKET AND LYING IN A MANGER"

LUKE 2:8-12

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## JESUS, THE LORD

BY JAMT

I WAS SITTING IN THE THRONE OF MY HEART, CONTEMPLATING THE THINGS THAT REIGNED IN ME: MONEY, POWER, PLEASURE.



"GOD KNOWS YOUR HEARTS. FOR WHAT IS THOUGHT HIGHLY OF BY MEN IS LOATHSOME IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. Lc 16:15

TILL ONE DAY JESUS CAME INTO MY LIFE, AT A SPECIAL MOMENT.



WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

I INVITED HIM TO STAY BUT THROUGH IGNORANCE I PLACED HIM NEXT TO MY IDOLS, SUPERSTITIONS AND CALCULATIONS.

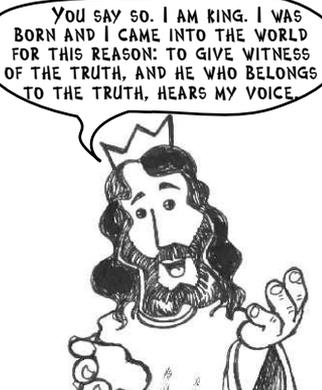
FROM THAT MOMENT HE STARTED TO TAKE MORE PLACE IN MY HEART SHOWING ME THE MISERIES I HAD TO THROW AWAY FROM INSIDE. AT THE SAME TIME HE LOOKED INTO MY EYES WITH LOVE AND UNDERSTOOD THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO HAD TO GET DOWN FROM THERE.



HE, HE, HE... I'M GETTING DOWN

GIVING TO HIM THE CROWN I SAID TO HIM:

THEN, YOU ARE KING?...



YOU SAY SO. I AM KING. I WAS BORN AND I CAME INTO THE WORLD FOR THIS REASON: TO GIVE WITNESS OF THE TRUTH, AND HE WHO BELONGS TO THE TRUTH, HEARS MY VOICE.

WHO IS NOW THE KING OF YOUR HEART?...