



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Services

Serving

the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

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The challenges to CCR by Pope John Paul II:

Prayer

by *Darius Jeziorny*



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Questions to ICCRS

Once, some time ago, I was shocked while listening to a preacher who asked the question: do you know God? I was just beginning then and that question might have been surprising for me because it was directed to leaders of the Charismatic Renewal. Many of them had been serving the Lord for some years. I started to think: is it possible to serve Jesus eagerly and not to know him?

I know that this short article about prayer will be read first of all by leaders of the CCR who do a wonderful job for the Lord. But I am sure that the question is still valid today for all of us. Our contemporary world is running on as never before, so quickly and so crazily. As an historian, I can see it clearly: many people feel lost or even frightened. But most of them usually try to keep up with the running world. I am not only thinking of people taking care of their own businesses but also persons involved in God's activities such as retreats, evangelization, healing ministry etc. In such situations many people have simply no time for their own personal prayer and they are consequently losing their ties with the Lord. This process is invisible from the outside and even for people who are involved in it - it could remain invisible for months or even years.

Such a problem also touches charismatic Christians who very often say, "Jesus said ...". And yet, is it possible to be a real prophet without spending time in the front of the Lord? Of course, God can speak using anyone, because he is unrestricted by human measures, but he also wants his prophets to be as close to him as possible. It is not uncommon that even very gifted Christians stop being charismatic and lose their relationship with the Giver of charisms. Indeed it is inevitable without a regular contact with God.

Prayer is a place of personal meeting with the Lord, where one can experience his presence. People involved in the Charismatic Renewal very often see Jesus during prayer meetings, worship and ministering charisms, for example the charism of healing. In such a situation nobody doubts that the Lord is close. But what is going on

when healing does not happen or prophecies do not appear or do not touch the hearts of people? Where can one experience God? Of course, it is only in personal prayer that a Christian can meet him face to face. It is a place where the Lord speaks to a person directly. And it is the place where one can discover God's particular way of speaking personally. Without knowing this, we can feel unsure and alone in everyday life, particularly when facing difficult situations.

Finally it must be noticed that personal prayer gives a wonderful opportunity to think over one's own personal involvement in ordinary life as well as serving charisms received from the Holy Spirit. Mature Christians do not regard themselves as perfect in all they are doing and know that it is impossible to improve anything in ministering to others without deep reflection.

Thinking about prayer it must be noticed too that the Charismatic Renewal gives people a wonderful opportunity to experience God's love through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Such an experience very often creates a turning point in human lives. But it is only the beginning! And what then? St. Paul encouraged Colossians "be rooted in him and built on him" (Col 2:7). Such a picture is easily understandable today too. A

tree grows its roots when it is planted for a long time in the same soil. As we can see this text comes back to the problem of time. Time is necessary because "only the experience of silence and prayer offers the proper setting" (NMI, 20) to be deep-rooted in Jesus. Living such a style of life yields a lot of fruit: "such a one is like a tree planted near to streams; it bears fruit in season and its leaves never wither" (Ps 1:3).

Quoting the Bible this way, we come to the very simple and basic truth that personal prayer is a source of strength to fulfill everyday duties as well as charismatic ministries. This is because of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Tm 1:7) with whom Christians are called to cooperate closely and thereby give the best testimony of being Jesus' man or woman, serving people effectively with power and love. It is possible then not only "to speak" of Christ, but in a certain sense to "show" him to people of our day (NMI, 16) because this is the best way to proclaim the Gospel. One can be successful in making disciples only by becoming similar to the Master and this is only possible in his company. Without this, proclaiming the Gospel would be artificial.

Summarizing my short article I would like to say that prayer is the key to spiritual growth and a starting point for any other activity in Christian life.

"...Prayer is a place of personal meeting with the Lord, where one can experience his presence. People involved in the Charismatic Renewal very often see Jesus during prayer meetings, worship and ministering charisms, for example the charism of healing..."



Subscribing ICCRS NL and buying ICCRS books in order to help the mission of ICCRS

by Nicholas Chia



visit our website: <http://www.iccrs.org/books.htm>



The ICCRS Mission

After the charismatic experience that began in 1967 spread to several parts of the world and loose organizations and networks were formed, International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) came into existence to serve the worldwide Renewal in all of its various streams and expressions. In 1993 the Holy See recognized ICCRS as a body for the promotion of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with a juridical personality, according to Canon 116, and approved the Statutes of ICCRS. ICCRS has its Office in Rome and operates as an information and communication centre serving the CCR worldwide as well as also being the link between the Renewal and the Vatican. There are about 120 million Catholics who have lived this experience and whom ICCRS has aimed at serving for the past 30 years.

In April 2000, Pope John Paul II stated in a personal message to the participants of the Great Gathering of the Catholic Charismatic Family that took place in Rimini, Italy, "...the task of ICCRS is to coordinate and promote exchange of experiences and reflections among Catholic charismatic communities throughout the world..." The Holy Father then added: "...in view of a growing ecclesiastical awareness within the different Catholic and Charismatic Communities all over the world, the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services will play an important role."

To better accomplish its aims and objectives, Article 9 of the ICCRS Statutes lists inter alia, the following services to be undertaken by it:

- i) Communicating regularly with CCR leaders throughout the world through letters, the ICCRS Newsletter for leaders, and other writings.
- ii) Preparing theological and pastoral studies about the CCR, known as ICCRS Documents, and gradually developing them in such a way that the subjects for an adequate catechesis for CCR participants will be covered.
- iii) Promoting other writings and publications on CCR in different parts of the world and facilitation of their translation into other languages.

ICCRS NL and Books

The most effective means by which ICCRS reaches out to the Renewal worldwide is through its bimonthly Newsletter that is published in 6 languages, viz. English, Spanish, French, Italian, German and Portuguese and is mailed to more than 200 countries. It contains news, testimonies, teachings, and a Leadership Formation Supplement. Permission is granted to reprint an article from the ICCRS Newsletter as long as ICCRS is quoted as the source. To all the subscribers who are able to connect to the Internet, the Newsletter will be sent by e-mail. The subscription donation suggested for it is Euro 20 or equivalent. The newsletter will be sent by mail only to those who clearly request this service and pay Euro 30 per year which includes postal expenses.

ICCRS Publications have also gone a long way in fostering spiritual formation, growth and evangelization. Some of the highly acclaimed books published by ICCRS are: Called, 'Gifted and Sent', 'A Grace, a Challenge and a Mission', 'A Sign of Hope for all People' and 'Then Peter stood up...'

ICCRS needs your support!

At this time of its history, ICCRS has more major projects underway than ever before. I would mention just two. The first major project is the program to establish an Institute of Charismatic Formation for leaders and potential leaders of the worldwide Renewal. As part of the project it is envisaged that many present and potential leaders will come to Rome for a period of up to three months, to study Charismatic Spirituality, leadership skills, and to work at ICCRS in the very heart of the Catholic world. ICCRS is either organizing or collaborating with a series of 6

international events from 31st May to 11th June 2006 to facilitate charismatic groups of the world to meet one another. It is indeed going to be a time of extraordinary grace for the worldwide Renewal as we are preparing for the 40th Anniversary of the CCR. Patronizing and promoting the ICCRS Newsletter and books is a new way to take part in the ICCRS mission for the Charismatic Renewal worldwide!

What can you do?

To help ICCRS to fulfill its mission you can:

- Subscribe to the Newsletter and renew it regularly.
- Encourage leaders and members of ministries and groups in your region/country to subscribe to the Newsletter, collect their subscriptions and forward them to the ICCRS Office.
- Advertise the ICCRS Newsletter and books in your publications, magazines, newsletters, etc and make announcements about them during major gatherings exhorting members to patronize them.
- Subscribe to bulk copies of the Newsletter and order ICCRS books for your region, ministry and prayer group and arrange their sale among members and in bookstalls.
- Make a Gift subscription of the ICCRS Newsletter for your dear ones and those in financial difficulties.
- Thousands of people who cannot afford to pay for it receive our Newsletter free! You could help us to cover the cost of this ICCRS mission by sending donations for the purpose.

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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.

Permission is granted to reprint an article from the ICCRS Newsletter as long as ICCRS is quoted as the source. Recommended subscription donation: €20 (by e-mail) and €30 (by ordinary mail) by year. Make your cheques, bank transfers or send your credit card payments directly to ICCRS.

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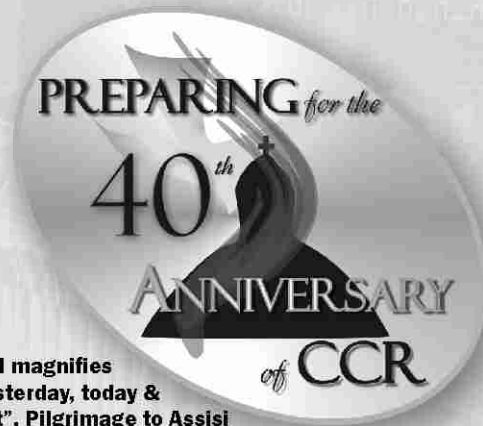
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PENTECOST 2006

come and celebrate together!!!

Pentecost vigil with the Holy Father, Pentecost Celebration "My soul magnifies the Lord", International open Conference "Charismatic Renewal: yesterday, today & tomorrow", International Leaders Colloquium "Maturing in the Spirit", Pilgrimage to Assisi



Don't miss it!

During my last meeting with His Excellency Monsignor Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, I was struck by the enthusiasm of the prelate in talking to me about the fantastic meeting to which the Holy Father has invited all the Ecclesial Movements; in order to celebrate the Vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost with him on 3rd June 2006 in Saint Peter's Square. In my heart, it brought back to me the voice of the pope saying to all who belong to the charismatic movements, "don't miss it!" The appointment is too important. The witness to be given to the world today must be unequivocal: within the catholic laity the various ecclesial movements are a shattering force able to bring Christ to the humanity of the 3rd millennium, thirsting for God. The world of today reasons with numbers. Only the presence of a great river of men and women can move the soporific consciousness of a materialistic and indolent world

"Don't miss it". Whatever charismatic movement you belong to, this invitation is for you. It is the Church which is calling you and it is a priority for all. There is another reason why you must not miss being in Rome at Pentecost 2006: on the Sunday there will be an extraordinary moment; certainly a charismatic "Kairos": a feast day together in which we shall desire to give glory to Him, to the hidden God who knows us so well, the Holy Spirit.

We shall meet in an arena in Rome with thousands of charismatics to testify to the world how much the Holy Spirit has done in our lives. It will also be a powerful time of evangelisation. The meeting will include the presence of Fr. Raniero di Cantalamessa, Fr Tom Forest, His Excellency Monsignor Grech, and Allan Panozza. It will conclude with a "Festival of praise", a

concert with a variety of artists from international personalities and ministries.

Don't miss it!

And then the international Conference opens with the theme "the Charismatic Renewal, yesterday, today and tomorrow". This will take place at Fiuggi from 5th to 7th June and will mark the opening of the ICCRS celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church.

Don't miss it!

And then The international discussion for 300 personally invited charismatic leaders. A prophetic time for the future of the whole CCR.

Don't miss it!

And to finish, choose from two pilgrimages to conclude the wonder of your journey to Italy: a guided visit to Assisi or to San Giovanni Rotondo

Don't miss it!

For further information you are invited to visit our website www.iccrs.org or to telephone or write to ICCRS: Piazza della Cancelleria, 1

**Don't miss it...
Remember, The Church is
calling you and we are
expecting you.**

Oreste Pesare
Director, ICCRS Office



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Lent



"AND WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS HE FELT SORRY FOR THEM" *

MT 9:36

* Message of Pope Benedict XVI for Lent 2006

United States

Letter of thanksgiving from Al and Patti Mansfield, New Orleans

In spite of our loss of home and CCRNO office because the Katrina hurricane in September 2005, the Lord made it possible for us to sponsor our annual large Holy Spirit Regional Retreats in the last two weeks.

Rejoice with us! 400 teens and young adults on the theme "The Church Is Alive! The Church Is Young" (words of Benedict XVI) and then 680 women this past weekend. The women came from 10 states and were extremely open to the grace of God. We want the suffering of our region to have a good purpose for our brethren around the world. Thanks

to ICCRS President and Director and all the ICCRS friends for your generous support. I pray that St. Joseph is hearing your prayer for the financial needs of ICCRS as well.

Canada

Over the last few years there has been a very positive development of parish based Life in the Spirit Seminars in Canada. Starting on the West Coast, the seminars have been run as parish missions and this format has now spread to other parts of Canada with the approval of a number of Bishops. Many new prayer groups have been started from these seminars. This is yet another positive move of the Spirit as we seek to be faithful

to the great commandment.

Peru

As part of a mission, the RCC of Peru invited Father Kevin Scallon and Sr. Briege McKenna to lead the 4th National Retreat for religious and the II International Retreat for priests. The former was attended by some 50 religious, and the latter by 115 priests from Peru and other countries. The theme of both retreats was "Renew the fire of your first Love." In addition, they preached at a General Day on the 22nd of January at Callao's Port, to an audience of 7000 people. The venue was filled to capacity and so many brothers were not able to enter. The Lord did not disappoint anyone!

"A sign of hope for all people"

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the heart of Pope John Paul II



A sign of hope for all people, ICCRS 2005, Author: Oreste Pesare, 28 pages, € 3.00 euro or \$ 4.00 US + postal costs. Available in English, Italian, Spanish and French. Make your order to ICCRS Office or by our website.

The Spiritual Experience of a lifetime



Azusa Street Centennial
April 26-29, 2006
Los Angeles

A worldwide gathering of Pentecostal / Charismatic believers commemorating and celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the Azusa Street Revival

From a handful of believers in Los Angeles, who witnesses an incredible outpouring of the Spirit in April 1906, to a vast worldwide movement numbering more than 600 million around the world 100 years later.

Allan Panozza and Oreste Pesare (President and Director of ICCRS) will be attending the Azusa Street Centennial celebrations as members of the Azusa Street Centennial Ministry Team. Please will you keep them, the event and all the participants in your prayers.

in memory of Father Dino Foglio

We join together in expressing our sorrow at the loss of Father Dino Foglio, who was a leading roleplayer in the Rinnovamento nello Spirito in Italy for many years. Fr Dino passed away in February after a long period of illness. May the Lord in his infinite mercy welcome him to His kingdom, free from the pain and suffering of his earthly life. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may your perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

THE CHALLENGES OF JOHN PAUL II TO THE CCR: PRAYER

BY JAMT

MY HEART'S DESIRE IS THAT THE RENEWAL IN THE SPIRIT MIGHT BE A GREAT GYMNASIUM OF PRAYER AND PENANCE, OF VIRTUE AND HOLINESS IN THE CHURCH.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO ENRICH THE TESTIMONY OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WITH THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS ENDOWED ON THE CHURCH INSTILLING A TASTE FOR PRAYER THAT DOESN'T EXCLUDE THE EXPERIENCE OF SILENCE.

RETURN TO THE UPPER ROOM AND BE UNITED IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF THE EUCHARISTIC MYSTERY.

IT IS THROUGH JESUS AND BY THE GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO BUILD HISTORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S DESIGN.

IN OUR WORLD WHICH IS SOMETIMES SICK WITH EFFICIENCY AND UTILITARIANISM, THERE IS A NEED TO WITNESS TO THE "THINGS ABOVE", VISIBLE AND TRUE IN OUR DAILY EXPERIENCE.

"THERE IS NO HOLINESS WITHOUT PRAYER"

JOHN PAUL II, APRIL 2004