



International Catholic
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Services

Serving
the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

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2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Rome, June 3rd

PENTECOST VIGIL WITH THE HOLY FATHER

by *Jim Murphy*

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services used the occasion of the Pentecost gathering with the Holy Father for a time of celebration and reflecting on the 40 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

The events were scheduled around the historic meeting of ecclesial and lay movements convened by His Holiness Benedict XVI on the eve of Pentecost. The precedent had been set when in 1998, Pope John Paul II had first invited a gathering of ecclesial and lay movements to gather on Pentecost of that year.

Still encouraged by the events of 1998 and 2004, the CCR turned out in force to be part of an estimated 400,000 people who gathered with the current Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI for solemn vespers of the Church on the eve of Pentecost. Those gathered came from over 110 ecclesial and lay movements from all over the world.

The solemn prayer was marked by both traditional and contemporary music. A powerful moment in the service came when the ancient prayer *veni creator spiritus* was intoned. It was as if the entire Church, from all over the world, from twenty centuries was joining in to chant a celestial hymn to God, invoking the outpouring of The Holy Spirit.

Many speakers, representing various ecclesial movements had an opportunity to address the Holy Father. Patti Gallagher Mansfield who was a student at the Duquesne Weekend, a key moment in the history of Charismatic Renewal, addressed the Holy Father on behalf of this worldwide movement (1). In her comments, Patti told the Holy Father of the transforming power that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has had in her life. She said that this gift of the Holy Spirit gives individuals a renewed love and

commitment to the Church. Looking directly at the Pontiff, Mrs. Mansfield warmly exclaimed "We love you Holy Father, and pledge our love and service to you and the Church." Patti recounted later that at these words, the Holy Father lifted his head, looked directly into her eyes, and warmly nodded.

In his comments at the vigil (2) the Holy Father referred to the Holy Spirit as the Creator Spirit. The Pontiff then said that as people touched by the Spirit we too must have a concern and show good stewardship for God's creation. He also said that The Creator Spirit was about life and so we too must be concerned for and protective of life.

Making the point that freedom in the Spirit calls for responsibility Benedict XVI said: "The Holy Spirit wants to lead us. The ecclesial movements want to and must be schools of freedom, of this true freedom. Let us learn in them this true freedom, not the freedom of slaves that aims to cut itself a slice of the cake that belongs to everyone even if this means that some do not get any."

Finally, the Pope urged the movements to join with him in a great missionary work of helping the whole world open doors to Christ.

His closing remarks had a true visionary quality to them "The Holy Spirit gives believers a superior vision of the world, of life, of history, and makes them custodians of the hope that never disappoints."

The combination of music, prayer, testimonies, and the Papal teaching made for a very powerful experience on the steps of St. Peter's that Saturday night. As one looked out over this vast multitude from around the world, one could already sense the hovering of the Creator Spirit above.



Special ICCRS issue on 2006 Pentecost Celebrations

Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father

Pentecost Celebration: "My soul magnifies the Lord"

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International Leaders Colloquium: "Maturing in the Spirit"

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Appendix: International Leaders Colloquium - Statement

Message: Patti Mansfield to the Holy Father

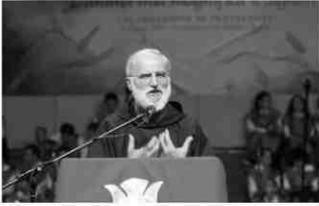
The Holy Father on the occasion of the eve of Pentecost

1 see the complete addresses on page 7
2 see the complete addresses on page 9-10

2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Rome, June 4th

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD!

by Peter Thompson



Veni Creator Spiritus: Come Holy Spirit! This was the cry that rose from the throats of the thousands who gathered following the Solemn High Mass in St Peter's Square. They gathered in an ice palace of all places! The ice was absent but it was filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. This was part of the celebrations organized by ICCRS in response to Pope Benedict XVI's invitation for ecclesial movements to gather with him at St Peter's for the Vigil of Pentecost. It was felt that we, the CCR and the largest ecclesial movement in the world should celebrate the great feast of Pentecost in a joyful hymn of praise and celebration.

The planning and execution of an event like this required the co-operation and physical support of a large number of people and in response to the call for assistance a number of Catholic charismatic communities in Italy with representation in Rome gave their all to make this event possible. Working together in unity, a sure sign of the Spirit, all the necessary roles of service were undertaken to ensure a truly Spirit filled celebration.

Our celebration was graced with the presence of two of the biggest members of the Church and the CCR family: Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap and Fr. Tom Forrest, CSSR.

Fr. Raniero shared with us that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit changed his life totally. He reminded us that the Holy Spirit acts in everybody's life in two ways. One is to sanctify a person. His gifts allow people to become better in everyday life. But there is also the second way, to support one's calling. Charisms are given to people to make them available to serve others, to serve inside the Church and to evangelize

those who are outside it. Both of these actions of the Spirit are signs of the Lord's grace.

Fr. Tom spoke with his usual passion as the second speaker. First of all he reminded us of several examples from the Bible where the power of the Holy Spirit was very visible. These were taken from both the Old and the New Testament. For instance he spoke about the story of Moses when he saw the burning bush. This moment changed his whole life. And as Fr. Tom said, it was not Moses who made the bush burn, but the fire from this bush that made Moses burn! It was a wonderful explanation of the relation between God and a human being. It is the Lord who chooses the proper moment and kind of intervention in one's life. Openness of the human being for such an action could change the world a lot. The second part of Fr. Tom's talk encouraged the listeners to receive the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He was also preaching from the perspective of his age. He said: "I intend to die some day, but I am going to die as a young person because the power of the Holy Spirit will never allow me to get old". In fact his very presence was the best testimony that this was true.

Both speakers exhorted us to the call to holiness, the fruit of the Spirit Gal: 5:22-23. We were reminded again to call upon the Holy Spirit, to cry out, Veni Creator Spiritus. We need you Holy Spirit.

Both talks prepared people for prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which followed afterwards.

Throughout this time we were led in magnificent praise and worship by gifted musicians and those responsible for listening to the Spirit and leading us in praise.

We praised God with our minds, voices and bodies.

Surely one of the great fruits of the charismatic renewal is the joyful praise manifested in its gatherings. We were led by groups from opposite sides of the world, from Italy and from other parts of Europe. From Mexico, Martin Valverde & The Antioquia Band.

These vibrant musicians anointed by the Holy Spirit prayed and rejoiced through the gift of music and although focused on the younger set drew all ages into joyful praise and worship of our God.

From Korea we were delighted by the religious brothers and sisters of the Kkotonghae community who captivated us with the great beauty of their music and song. The transformation that took place when they changed into traditional costume and with a delicate dance to the Lord enthralled us with the beauty of dance.

God delights in his people and when music and dance are done in his glory and honour we are reminded in Zephaniah 2:17.

We then moved from dance into traditional drums and cymbals, beating out a rhythm of exuberance, so much that the children of God could no longer suppress their own joy and leaped for joy before the King of Kings.

God has created us as physical human beings with flesh and blood, emotions and feelings. Often we are cautious of these aspects but throughout the scriptures we see the people of God rejoicing and praising God in very physical ways.

This Pentecost event enabled us once again to experience the joy of Pentecost and to express that joy in the power and presence of God the Holy Spirit.



2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Rome, June 5th - 9th

INTERNATIONAL OPEN CONFERENCE: CCR: YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

by Cyril Jhon

The experience of coming together of about 1000 delegates from 84 countries from all continents of the world the day after Pentecost for the International Open Conference from 5th to 9th June at Fiuggi-Italy, was something similar to that of the first Pentecost: “when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). The event was the culmination of hectic planning and preparation by the ICCRS Council, Oreste Pesare, Claude Lopez and the ICCRS Office in Rome for more than a year. It was seen as a significant event in the process of “Preparing for the 40th Anniversary of CCR”. The joy of coming together of the charismatics from all over the world as a family was such that we felt like the prophecy of Ezekiel being fulfilled: “At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered; and I will restore the fortunes of Egypt, and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin...” (Ezek 29:13-14).

The Theme of Conference was “Charismatic Renewal: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”. The Conference began with the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Bishop Joe Grech of Australia and concelebrated by a Bishop and about hundred priest delegates. Allan Panozza, President of ICCRS, extended a warm welcome to the participants. Speaking on “CCR yesterday”, Dorothy and Kevin Ranaghan of the United States unwrapped the blessings the Church has received in the last 40 years through the Renewal and also dealt with some of the concerns in the Renewal.

What set the tone was a number of prophecies received during the Conference. Through a

number of leaders the Lord exhorted the gathering as follows: “Behold, I am doing something new...Will you allow me to do this new thing? ...Simply beg that I will show you your individual role in this great world-wide mission. The time is approaching when trial and exaltation, suffering and victory will come to my people here. No longer will I allow you to hide under a basket. Prepare your hearts for something new. Ask yourself if you will stand with me on the hill of Calvary in death and victory, as a shining light of HOPE and TRUTH!”

“Where Spirit filled youth are present in great numbers among us, it is an astonishing breath of fresh air and a true hope for the future.”
Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan

Allan Panozza highlighted that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not only for the whole Church but is meant for the whole world. Bishop Christopher Prowse of Australia shared during the Eucharistic celebration that the tent we are in is like the meeting tent of Moses with Yahweh. The participants were led to a time of collective repentance by Fr Diego Jaramillo of Colombia and Mr Moyses Azevedo of Brazil.

Sr Nancy Keller of the United States and Jean Pliya of Benin dealt with “the CCR tomorrow” and stressed the need for ongoing conversion and the call to holiness. The need for moving in the charisms was stressed by Fr Bart Pastor of Philippines and Kim Kollins of Germany. Reinaldo

Beserra, Brazil; Matteo Calisi, Italy and Charles Whitehead, UK dealt with unity in the Spirit within the CCR and Ecumenism. Formation of ecclesial maturity was another important topic dealt with by Jim Murphy of the United States and Michelle Moran of the UK. Fr Tom Forrest of the United States spoke on proclamation and service: signs of hope. The participants experienced healing of mind, body and spirit during the healing ministry led by Jean Pliya and Fr Emmanuel Tusiime, Uganda.

One of the high points of the Conference was the visit paid by Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, Prefect of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, to the Conference on 6th June. Addressing the participants, Archbishop Rylko congratulated the CCR for propagating the “culture of Pentecost” throughout the Church and thanked ICCRS for the commendable service it renders to the Church. He exhorted the participants: “Holiness, prayer, communion, formation and proclamation are indeed dimensions without which our mission to bring Christ to the world of today cannot bear fruit!”

Many witnessed to the healing and infilling they experienced during the Holy Eucharist and Holy Hour at the Conference. The praise and worship sessions led by Andrew from Malta and Rosa from Spain and their team were really spirit-u-lifting. Many shared that meeting and sharing with other brothers and sisters from around the world was one of the most treasured experiences of the Conference. The concluding Eucharist and prayer for infilling led by Bishop Joe Grech brought the curtains down on this exceptionally Spirit-filled and Spirit-led event. ☩



2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Fiuggi, June 9th - 11th

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS COLLOQUIUM MATURING IN THE SPIRIT

by Michelle Moran



250 invited leaders gathered together from all around the world. We were especially blessed by the presence of 4 bishops. A large part of the colloquium was small group discussion where leaders were asked to share from their experience. The first question was about the central aspects of CCR. The key things that emerged were the importance of introducing Catholics to Baptism in the Spirit and highlighting its importance, and encouraging the use of Charisms. This was closely followed by the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus, evangelisation and ongoing growth in holiness. The second question asked the leaders to share what they sense the Lord is saying at this time. The key things were, the importance of evangelisation, the need for formation and the raising up new and young leaders. Also highlighted was the call to return to our first love and light the fire again.

As the 40th anniversary of CCR approaches we were led on the first evening by Kevin Ranaghan to look back and reflect on some of the blessings of the early days. Jim Murphy then used the life of Moses to help us to look biblically at the symbolism of 40 years. We were reminded of Moses who after leading the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years was finally asked to climb mount Nebo so that he could view the land of Canaan before his death (Deut 32:48). I must confess that I have always felt sorry for Moses who did all the hard work but never got into the land. Yet, when Moses looked back over his life he could recall so many

wonderful things. He would remember how he was captivated and transformed by the Lord appearing in the Burning Bush and the miracle of the parting Red Sea. He would remember how his perseverance in prayer and fasting helped the Israelites win the battle of Amalek. He would also recall the testing and difficult times of getting it wrong, losing faith and the Israelites slipping into idolatry. However, perhaps the most inspiring thought is that when on the mountain Moses faces his death he looks towards the Promised Land full of hope because the future looks glorious.

On Saturday afternoon we had more of a workshop style setting. There were three short interventions followed by a time for people to ask questions. Charles Whitehead presented some of the challenges and opportunities that we face when trying to work ecumenically. Christoff Hemberger from Germany spoke from experience about the importance of making room in the Renewal for younger leaders to be raised up and grow. Then Cathy Brenti looked at the relationship between the New Communities and the Renewal.

We ended our evening with an hour of silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We were encouraged to listen to the Lord but

remain in silence and if necessary write down anything that we heard from the Lord. On Sunday morning there was an opportunity to share in our small groups what we felt the Lord had said. The key thing that came up in the feedback was that the Lord was reminding us about the importance of unity. Unity within our groups and communities, unity among leaders, unity at NSC/National level, unity among the worldwide CCR, and unity in the Church.

Before the closing Eucharist on Sunday morning Allan Panozza shared some aspects of ICCRS's vision for the future. As always, Allan reminded us that the central role of ICCRS is one of service and that we try to serve wherever we are needed. He also highlighted the financial difficulties which ICCRS are facing and encouraged people to be generous in supporting the work and service of ICCRS.

Our short time together was richly blessed. It would seem that the Lord's manifesto is clear. We are to be Christians who fully embody the life and gifts of the Holy Spirit (now there's a challenge!). We are called to be evangelisers sharing this blessing with those in the Church and in the World. We are to be ambassadors of

reconciliation building unity even in diversity. Then, following the example of Moses, whilst still living the fullness of our own calling, we are to form and pass on the mantle of leadership to the next generations

(Deut 31:1-8). All this will require a deeper trust in the Lord and a greater openness to the new ways in which the Holy Spirit is leading us.

"... an opportunity to share in our small groups what we felt the Lord had said..."

"...Allan reminded us that the central role of ICCRS is one of service and that we try to serve wherever we are needed..."

2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Assisi, June 9th - 11th

INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

by Linda Egúsqüiza



It is incredible how, throughout history, the Lord has led his people to praise Him. We are no exception! After the delight of the celebrations organised by ICCRS, yet still we lacked the tender touch of God experienced by those of us who went on to attend one of the final events: the pilgrimage to Assisi, that blessed ground, endowed with extraordinary sanctity, where its favourite children, Saint Francis and Saint Claire, lived.

Our pilgrimage began at the end of our conference in Fiuggi. We were more than 300 pilgrims from all 5 continents. The 5 buses drove along merrily to the sound of prayer and praise from the happy pilgrims who looked with amazement at the majesty of the countryside. At last we arrived and our hearts longed to continue praising in the places where these two friends of God (Francis and Claire) have been consecrated.

After settling into our lodgings, we had supper and spent our first night hoping anxiously for the dawn. Very early in the morning we set off towards our first meeting place: the Basilica of Saint Francis! Our spiritual director Fr. Wahid Riad (Australia) celebrated the Eucharist together with more than 17 priests who had come on the pilgrimage. The mass was celebrated in the upper basilica: it was superb! We were surrounded by more than 20 frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue taking us step by step through the history of Francis. This was the first gift which we received from God as they almost never celebrate mass in this place!

Then we spent some time getting to know the lower basilica, the tomb of Saint Francis (where we stopped to offer praise and our petitions), and the Patriarchal Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels: Shrine of the "Porziuncola", the place where the Lord spoke to Francis and granted him an intention. All who ask

for forgiveness in this place obtain a plenary indulgence from all their sins (valid down the centuries). Obviously, much moved by this, we gratefully asked for this grace in our meditations!

Assisi is a holy place for, wherever you walk you breathe in an air of peace and well-being. It is a little piece of heaven which reaches the earth and invites everyone to sing praises for the Lord's mercies.

After a delicious lunch we continued our pilgrimage with a visit to the gothic basilica of Saint Claire. Woman, filled with love for Jesus, you gave up your life to contemplation in the service of the Word. We also went to the convent of Saint Damian where we came to a better understanding of the sanctity of Saint Francis. "Saint Damian's church" was the first answer St Francis thought of when he was called to his vocation: he heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Francis, go and repair my church which you will see in ruins." The poor Saint thought that this referred to the reconstruction of the church of Saint Damian. Much later he understood that it referred to the reconstruction of the Church not as a building but as the people who are living members of the Church (the Mystical Body of Christ).

It is amazing to think of the great unity that existed between Francis and Claire in the mission which they were given: Francis longed to spend all his time contemplating the Lord whereas his brothers thought preaching to attract souls to God was a more basic need. Claire complemented this missionary role and sustained her ministry in the solitude of the cloister. Claire contemplated, Francis evangelised (spending every free moment in contemplation of course). Prayer and proclamation. Love in action!

Saint Francis is considered one of the greatest charismatics of history not only because of the extraordinary charisms and gifts which he received but more so because of his docility to and total confidence in his Heavenly Father. He not only composed "The Song of the creatures" (Praise be to you my Lord...!), his whole life and personality was a song of praise to his Creator.

At nightfall we returned to our hotels for supper ... but the best was yet to come. At nine in the evening we met again in the basilica of the "Porziuncola" and spent a beautiful time in praise and reciting the holy rosary then continued with a procession around the outer walls of the basilica returning once more to the holy place, the "Porziuncola" ...simply glorious!

Very early the following day we once again had the honour of being present at Holy Mass in the basilica of Saint Francis where we participated in a great time of communal praise for God's Love of His creation and we sang the "Song of the creatures". Afterwards we took a couple of hours to wander around and do our "shopping" in the welcoming streets of Assisi and then, after lunch we prepared for our return.

Truly, this pilgrimage has had an impact on our lives in many ways: in short, we saw such unity and solidarity among people who were so different in culture, age etc: through the example of the lives of these Saints (Francis and Claire), through other ordinary difficulties (a bus breakdown) and in those that saw the provident hand of Jesus at work. We feel sure that Francis and Claire are interceding for us and that they will be accompanying us until the day when we shall meet in our final dwelling place. Then, together we may sing with one voice: Praise be to you my Lord! ☪

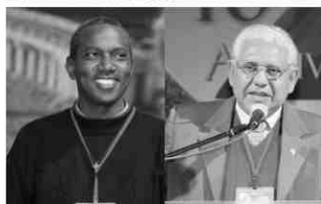


"The Eucharistic Celebration on Trinity Sunday was the highlight of the pilgrimage. It seemed providential to have Mass celebrated at the upper Basilica, where John Paul II gathered all the spiritual leaders to encourage everyone to bring peace to the world. One could not help remembering also, that it was this same basilica that was so severely damaged by an earthquake some time later. All the Giotto frescoes, now restored to their original beauty, were for a time what some journalist called "the largest puzzle in the world". So when we heard in the Gospel of the day "Go, and from all the nations make disciples..." (Mt 28:19), this call became reachable; the "impossible" task to assemble all the nations under our Triune God appeared possible, as the Lord wanted it and He had sent His Spirit with power on so many assembled around our Holy father on Pentecost 2006. We just need now to let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit to make of the puzzle of all nations, one beautiful fresco under one Shepherd."

2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS: Veroli, June 11th -16th

ICCRS COUNCIL MEETING

by Allan Panozza



Following the major events at Pentecost 2006, the International Council met for its annual meeting. The venue chosen this year was the ancient Roman town of Veroli, situated in the Ernici mountains south of Rome. Four new members were welcomed by the President to their first Council meeting, and apologies were received from Walter Zimmerman (Chile) and Nicholas Chia (Singapore) who were unable to attend.

Council sessions began each morning with an hour of Praise and Worship, during which time we were attentive to the prophetic word in which the Lord confirmed our direction for that day. Mass was celebrated daily by Bp. Grech and each day there was a Holy Hour with adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Because there had not been any Council meeting in 2005 due to financial constraints, this meeting was both important and intense. However, before the actual business of the meeting began, Bp. Joe Grech from Australia gave a short reflection on the call and appointment of each Councillor, and the President then issued a challenge concerning the commitment of members to their important tasks. This resulted in each Council member signing an individual document, pledging his or her full commitment to the work of ICCRS.

The first agenda item dealt with a detailed consideration of the Fiuggi Conference and Leaders' Colloquium. Council looked at the different outcomes which had emerged, and had discussion about possible new initiatives as suggested by the delegates and now being considered by Council members. Also discussed in detail was the outcome from the Ars Retreat held in September 2005, which attracted 853 priests from seventy one countries, including 16 bishops and two cardinals. A program of prayer throughout France had prepared for this Retreat during the previous twelve months, and many positive responses have since been

received from priests from across the world. The overwhelming request to ICCRS and the Beatitudes Community (co-sponsors of the event), has been that because of the deep spiritual blessings which were experienced by those who attended, another Retreat should be held for priests under the patronage of the Holy Priest of Ars. Allan Panozza and Oreste Pesare also reported on their representation for ICCRS at the Azusa Street Centennial Celebrations recently held in Los Angeles to commemorate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Pentecostal movement in 1906.

The first International Institute for Catholic Charismatic Leadership formation was held in Rome 5-24 June 2005, and attracted 45 students from 16 countries. The fruit of this Institute was considered by the Council as being so beneficial for leadership in CCR that it has planned for the 2nd. Institute to be held in Rome 3 - 23 June 2007. Jim Murphy (USA) will again be the Director, and the subcommittee comprising the ICCRS Director (Oreste) and the newly elected vice President of ICCRS Michelle Moran (England), will work together with Jim to ensure that this important initiative will continue to provide training for leadership in both Charismatic Spirituality and practical skills.

The Council confirmed the decision to proceed with a number of other important events.

Allan Panozza and Oreste Pesare will visit Romania during September 2006 for the first ever National Conference for CCR in that country. In October 2006, members of the Executive Committee led by the President will travel to Chile to meet with the leaders of 24 Latin American countries at their bi-annual meeting, to be held this year in Santiago. This will provide an opportunity for ICCRS to continue important discussions with the leaders of the most populous nations within Catholic Charismatic

Renewal, and we look forward to working more closely with the Renewal in this region of the world. In December 2006, leaders from the vast region of Asia Pacific will hold an inaugural meeting in Singapore to form an ICCRS sub committee to work in this area of the world, in a similar manner to that already established by ICCRS in Europe and Africa. Other events also scheduled are an important Healing Conference with the Francis and Judith MacNutt School of Healing Prayer, to be held in Jacksonville (USA) 30 April - 5 May 2007, the 1st. Pan African Congress in Africa in August 2007, and a Colloquium on the Charisms scheduled to be held in Rome and to be co-sponsored with the Catholic Fraternity during 2008.

In addition to discussions on many other matters of importance, much time was devoted by the Council to analyzing the financial situation of ICCRS, and planning for other means of raising the level of income from around the world. At the same time considerable emphasis was placed on evaluating what measures can be taken in order to minimize the level of expenditure in Rome. There is no easy answer to this problem, but the Council feels that what must be done has now been put in place, and as always we leave the rest to the providence of God.

At the conclusion of five full days of the meeting, necessary elections were held to replace two members who were due to retire having completed their terms of office. Newly elected Robert Canton (USA) and Brother James Shin (South Korea) will join the Council at the next meeting to be held in Rome during April 2007, and existing members Bp. Grech, Reinaldo Beserra dos Reis, Michelle Moran and Peter Thompson were re-elected for further terms. Because of the close relationship between ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity, Council voted not to maintain the position for a Council representative to worldwide communities.



2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS - appendix:

International Leaders Colloquium “Maturing in the Spirit”
Statement *-Brief report sent to the CCR Key Leaders worldwide-*

Dear friends, during the ICCRS Colloquium June 2006 International Leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal met by language groups to share their experiences. The following is the results of those dialogues.

The first discussion point was about the essential aspects of CCR. The main things highlighted were:

- a) Introducing Catholics to and highlighting the importance of Baptism in the Spirit.
- b) Encouraging use of the Charisms
- c) Helping people to come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- d) The need for evangelisation
- e) The need to grow in personal holiness

The second discussion point asked: What do we sense the Lord saying to CCR at this time? The things most frequently highlighted were:

- a) The necessity of evangelisation
- b) The importance of leadership formation and raising up new leaders
- c) The importance of unity
- d) Service to the poor
- e) Be open to the new things of the Spirit
- f) Return to your first love and light the fire again.

The third discussion point was about the main difficulties that leaders experience in CCR. The area which most people highlighted was a lack of understanding and/or acceptance by priests and the hierarchy regarding the CCR. The groups also highlighted the difficulty of building unity both within and among groups and realities. They also noted the lack of prayerful and visionary leaders and personal difficulties within leadership of fear, sin, human weakness, pride and lack of boldness.

On the Saturday evening June 10th the leaders had a time of prayer in silence before

the Blessed Sacrament. From this we sensed the Lord saying “keep the fire of Pentecost burning, have joy in the presence of the Lord, deepen your spiritual life and go forward in faith, evangelise, be a witness and serve the poor, love one another, build and protect unity and be open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit”.

The groups also made some helpful comments regarding CCR in general and there were some particular suggestions made to ICCRS that we will reflect upon and consider.

At the ICCRS Council Meeting following the Leaders Colloquium we were only in a position to begin to reflect upon the group reports. We now propose to compile a short report that we will deliver to Archbishop Rylko at the Pontifical Council of the Laity. We will also produce a short statement to send to the Holy Father.

In His love, ICCRS Council

Address of Patti Gallagher Mansfield to the Holy Father
Pentecost Vespers Address

Dear Holy Father, With all our hearts we thank you for inviting us to meet with you on this glorious feast of Pentecost. We are your sons and daughters; we are sons and daughters of the Church, children of Mary, and we are the fruit of the Second Vatican Council.

Holy Father, I was given the grace, in February 1967, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit at a retreat for students from Duquesne University which marked the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Immediately I turned to the Documents of Vatican II for guidance in understanding my experience. What I read in Lumen Gentium, 12 about the charismatic gifts encouraged me to be open to the Holy Spirit and His surprises. Every movement and community has its own special history, but in each one

exists this same reality: “The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rm. 5:5).

Holy Father, thank you for loving us. Thank you for your constant support and encouragement.

Thank you for saying that you are a friend of the movements and that we are a sign of the New Springtime. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my word” (cf. Jn. 14:23), and we stand ready to receive your word, Holy Father, and to follow your direction because we love you.

St. Catherine of Siena called the Pope of her day, “Daddy, the sweet Christ on earth.” We echo her tenderness and affection today by calling you, Pope Benedict XVI, “the sweet Christ on earth” for us. We place ourselves in full availability to your service in the New Evangelization. For it is not ourselves that we preach -not our movements, our

communities, nor our works - no, it is not ourselves that we preach, but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake (cf. II Cor. 4:5).

Holy Father, you have cried out to the Church and the world: “Deus Caritas Est!” May we join you in proclaiming that Jesus Himself is indeed the pearl of great price and the treasure hidden in the field worth giving up everything else to possess (cf. Mt.13:46).

Thank you, Holy Father, for calling us here to the heart of the Church, for it is here that we discover the vocation we share as ecclesial movements and new communities. Our vocation is love! Today we make our own the words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and we say: “In the heart of the Church, our Mother, we want to be and we will be love!”

Patti Gallagher Mansfield
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans

 ICCRS *presents the:*

**Francis
& Judith Mc Nutt**

School of Healing Prayer® & Pilgrimage to holy sites



**30 April - 5 May 2007
Wyndham Jacksonville
Riverwalk Hotel
Jacksonville,
FL USA**

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
ICCRS is committed to the deepening of our understanding and appreciation for the Charism of Healing. This journey of deeper discovery began in 1995 in San Giovanni Rotondo at the home of Padre Pio, when we hosted a healing rally in nearby Foggia at which 30,000 people joined with ICCRS to celebrate the healing love of Jesus through the anointed ministry of the late Fr. Emiliano Tardif.*

In 2001 in Rome ICCRS co-presented with the Pontifical Council for the Laity a colloquium to consider the ministry of healing in the Charismatic Renewal, following the issuing of the document "Instruction on Prayer for Healing" from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. As President of ICCRS I promised then that we would continue to provide opportunities for greater understanding of the Charism of Healing. An ICCRS Doctrinal Commission formed under the Chairmanship of Bishop Joseph Grech (Australia) has recently produced a document dealing with this important subject, which will be available for circulation to the worldwide Renewal very soon.

Now the journey continues! ICCRS will present a Healing Conference with the Francis and Judith MacNutt School of Healing Prayer in Jacksonville, Florida, which will be co-sponsored by The National Service Committee of the United States. The key presenters will be Francis and Judith MacNutt, both of whom have been active in this ministry for many years. Francis will be well remembered as a pioneer in the Healing Ministry following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the famous Duquesne Retreat in 1967. Additional attractions will include daily Mass, a closing Charismatic Healing Rally and the opportunity for a one day pilgrimage to the earliest Marian Shrine in North America at nearby historic St. Augustine, Florida. This is also the place from where ICCRS Council member Jim Murphy began his famous 18 month trek across America in 1992, carrying a wooden cross.

I invite you to join us in Jacksonville 30 April - 5 May 2007 to continue the ICCRS journey of discovery. I urge you to send delegates from your prayer group or community to be part of this significant event. ICCRS is firmly committed to the call of Pope John Paul II and of Pope Benedict XVI for ecclesial maturity in order that we might serve the Church and worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I look forward to greeting many of you in Jacksonville, Florida on 30 April 2007.

Brochures with all details and costs will be available very soon.

Allan Panozza, President of ICCRS



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ICCRS NEWSLETTER

Special issue 2006

2006 PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS - appendix:

The Holy Father on the occasion of the eve of Pentecost

"The Ecclesial Movements want to and must be schools of freedom and life"



Homily delivered by Benedict XVI during vespers, on the eve of Pentecost, in which he addressed a message for the Meeting with the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities at St. Peter's Square, June 3rd 2006.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: You have come to St Peter's Square this evening in really large numbers to take part in the Pentecost Vigil. I warmly thank you. You belong to different peoples and cultures and represent here all the members of the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, spiritually gathered round the Successor of Peter to proclaim the joy of believing in Jesus Christ and to renew the commitment to be faithful disciples in our time.

I thank you for your participation and address my cordial greeting to each one of you. My affectionate thoughts go in the first place to the Cardinals, to my venerable Brothers in the Episcopate and in the Priesthood and to the men and women Religious.

I greet those in charge of your numerous Ecclesial Associations who show how alive the Holy Spirit's action is among the People of God. I greet the organizers of this extraordinary event, and especially those who work at the Pontifical Council for the Laity with Bishop Josef Clemens, the Secretary, and Archbishop Stanislaw Ryłko, the President, to whom I am also grateful for his cordial words at the beginning of the Vespers Liturgy.

A similar meeting that took place in this same Square on 30 May 1998 with beloved Pope John Paul II springs to mind. A great evangelizer of our time, he accompanied and guided you throughout his Pontificate.

He described your Associations and Communities on many occasions as "providential", especially because the Sanctifying Spirit makes use of them to reawaken faith in so many Christian hearts and to reveal to them the vocation they have received with Baptism. He also helps them to be witnesses of hope filled with that fire of love which is bestowed upon us precisely by the Holy Spirit.

Let us ask ourselves now, at this Pentecost Vigil, who or what is the Holy Spirit? How can we recognize him? How do we go to him and how does he come to us? What does he do? The Church's great Pentecostal hymn with which we began Vespers: "Veni, Creator Spiritus... Come, Holy Spirit" gives us a first answer. Here the hymn refers to the first verses of the Bible that describe the creation of the universe with recourse to images.

The Bible says first of all that the Spirit of God was moving over the chaos, over the waters of the abyss.

The world in which we live is the work of the Creator Spirit. Pentecost is not only the origin of the Church and thus in a special way her feast; Pentecost is also a feast of creation. The world does not exist by itself; it is brought into being by the creative Spirit of God, by the creative

Word of God. For this reason Pentecost also mirrors God's wisdom. In its breadth and in the omni-comprehensive logic of its laws, God's wisdom permits us to glimpse something of his Creator Spirit. It elicits reverential awe.

Those very people who, as Christians, believe in the Creator Spirit become aware of the fact that we cannot use and abuse the world and matter merely as material for our actions and desires; that we must consider creation a gift that has not been given to us to be destroyed, but to become God's garden, hence, a garden for men and women.

In the face of the many forms of abuse of the earth that we see today, let us listen, as it were, to the groaning of creation of which St Paul speaks (Rom 8: 22); let us begin by understanding the Apostle's words, that creation waits with impatience for the revelation that we are children of God, to be set free from bondage and obtain his splendour.

Dear friends, we want to be these children of God for whom creation is waiting, and we can become them because the Lord has made us such in Baptism. Yes, creation and history - they are waiting for us, for men and women who are truly children of God and behave as such.

If we look at history, we see that creation prospered around monasteries, just as with the reawakening of God's Spirit in human hearts the brightness of the Creator Spirit has also been restored to the earth - a splendour that has been clouded and at times even extinguished by the barbarity of the human mania for power.

Moreover, the same thing happened once again around Francis of Assisi - it has happened everywhere as God's Spirit penetrates souls, this Spirit whom our hymn describes as light, love and strength.

Thus, we have discovered an initial answer to the question as to what the Holy Spirit is, what he does and how we can recognize him. He comes to meet us through creation and its beauty.

However, in the course of human history, a thick layer of dirt has covered God's good creation, which makes it difficult if not impossible to perceive in it the Creator's reflection, although the knowledge of the Creator's existence is reawakened within us ever anew, as it were, spontaneously, at the sight of a sunset over the sea, on an excursion to the mountains or before a flower that has just bloomed. But the Creator Spirit comes to our aid. He has entered history and speaks to us in a new way. In Jesus Christ, God himself was made man and allowed us, so to speak, to cast a glance at the intimacy of God himself. And there we see something totally unexpected: in God, an "I" and a "You" exist. The

mysterious God is not infinite loneliness, he is an event of love. If by gazing at creation we think we can glimpse the Creator Spirit, God himself, rather like creative mathematics, like a force that shapes the laws of the world and their order, but then, even, also like beauty - now we come to realize: the Creator Spirit has a heart. He is Love.

The Son who speaks to the Father exists and they are both one in the Spirit, who constitutes, so to speak, the atmosphere of giving and loving which makes them one God. This unity of love which is God, is a unity far more sublime than the unity of a last indivisible particle could be. The Triune God himself is the one and only God. Through Jesus let us as it were cast a glance at God in his intimacy. John, in his Gospel, expressed it like this: "No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" (Jn 1: 18). Yet Jesus did not only let us see into God's intimacy; with him, God also emerged, as it were, from his intimacy and came to meet us. This happened especially in his life, passion, death and Resurrection; in his words.

Jesus, however is not content with coming to meet us. He wants more. He wants unification. This is the meaning of the images of the banquet and the wedding. Not only must we know something about him, but through him we must be drawn to God. For this reason he had to die and be raised, since he is now no longer to be found in any specific place, but his Spirit, the Holy Spirit, emanates from him and enters our hearts, thereby uniting us with Jesus himself and with the Father, the Triune God.

Pentecost is this Jesus, and through him God himself, actually comes to us and draws us to himself. "He sends forth the Holy Spirit" - this is what Scripture says. What effect does this have? I would like first of all to pick out two aspects: the Holy Spirit, through whom God comes to us, brings us life and freedom. Let us look at both these things a little more closely.

"I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly", Jesus says in the Gospel of John (10: 10). Life and freedom: these are the things for which we all yearn. But what is this - where and how do we find "life"?

I think that the vast majority of human beings spontaneously have the same concept of life as the Prodigal Son of the Gospel. He had his share of the patrimony given to him and then felt free; in the end, what he wanted was to live no longer burdened by the duties of home, but just to live. He wanted everything that life can offer. He wanted to enjoy it to the full - living, only living, immersed in life's abundance, missing none of all the valuable things it can offer.

In the end he found himself caring for pigs and even envying those animals - his life had become so empty and so useless. And his freedom was also proving useless.

When all that people want from life is to take possession of it, it becomes ever emptier and poorer; it is easy to end up seeking refuge in drugs, in the great deception. And doubts surface as to whether, in the end, life is truly a good. No, we do not find life in this way. Jesus' words about life in abundance are found in the Good Shepherd discourse. His words are set in a double context.

Concerning the shepherd, Jesus tells us that he lays down his life. "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (cf. Jn 10: 18). It is only in giving life that it is found; life is not found by seeking to possess it. This is what we must learn from Christ; and the Spirit teaches us that it is a pure gift, that it is God's gift of himself. The more one gives one's life for others, for goodness itself, the more abundantly the river of life flows.

Secondly, the Lord tells us that life unfolds in walking with the Shepherd who is familiar with the pasture - the places where the sources of life flow.

We find life in communion with the One who is life in person - in communion with the living God, a communion into which we are introduced by the Holy Spirit, who is called in the hymn of Vespers "fons vivus", a living source. The pasture where the sources of life flow is the Word of God as we find it in Scripture, in the faith of the Church. The pasture is God himself who we learn to recognize in the communion of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear friends, the Movements were born precisely of the thirst for true life; they are Movements for life in every sense. Where the true source of life no longer flows, where people only appropriate life instead of giving it, wherever people are ready to dispose of unborn life because it seems to take up room in their own lives, it is there that the life of others is most at risk.

If we want to protect life, then we must above all rediscover the source of life; then life itself must re-emerge in its full beauty and sublimeness; then we must let ourselves be enlivened by the Holy Spirit, the creative source of life.

The theme of freedom has just been mentioned. The Prodigal Son's departure is linked precisely with the themes of life and freedom. He wanted life and therefore desired to be totally liberated. Being free, in this perspective, means being able to do whatever I like, not being bound to accept any criterion other than and over and above myself. It means following my own desires and my own will alone.

Those who live like this very soon clash with others who want to live the same way. The inevitable consequence of this selfish concept of freedom is violence and the mutual destruction of freedom and life.

Sacred Scripture, on the other hand, connects the concept of freedom with that of sonship. St Paul says: "You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship", through which we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Rom 8: 15). What does this mean? St Paul presupposes the social system of the ancient world in which slaves existed. They owned nothing, so they could not be involved in the proper development of things.

Co-respectively, there were sons who were also heirs and were therefore concerned with the preservation and good administration of their property or the preservation of the State. Since they were free, they also had responsibility.

Leaving aside the sociological background of that time, the principle still holds true: freedom and responsibility go hand in hand. True freedom is demonstrated in responsibility, in a way of behaving in which one takes upon oneself a shared responsibility for the world, for oneself and for others. The son, to whom things belong and who, consequently, does not let them be destroyed, is free. All the worldly responsibilities of which we have spoken are nevertheless partial responsibilities for a specific area, a specific State, etc.

The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, makes us sons and daughters of God. He involves us in the same responsibility that God has for his world, for the whole of humanity. He teaches us to look at the world, others and ourselves with God's eyes. We do not do good as slaves who are not free to act otherwise, but we do it because we are personally responsible for the world; because we love truth and goodness, because we love God himself and therefore, also his creatures. This is the true freedom to which the Holy Spirit wants to lead us.

The Ecclesial Movements want to and must be schools of freedom, of this true freedom. Let us learn in them this true freedom, not the freedom of slaves that aims to cut itself a slice of the cake that belongs to everyone even if this means that some do not get any.

We want the true, great freedom, the freedom of heirs, the freedom of children of God. In this world, so full of fictitious forms of freedom that destroy the environment and the human being, let us learn true freedom by the power of the Holy Spirit; to build the school of freedom; to show others by our lives that we are free and how beautiful it is to be truly free with the true freedom of God's children.

The Holy Spirit, in giving life and freedom, also gives unity. These are three gifts that are inseparable from one another. I have already gone on too long; but let me say a brief word about unity.

To understand it, we might find a sentence useful which at first seems rather to distance us from it. Jesus said to Nicodemus, who came to him with his questions by night: "The wind blows where it wills" (Jn 3: 8). But the Spirit's will is not arbitrary. It is the will of truth and goodness. Therefore, he does not blow from anywhere, now from one place and then from another; his breath is not wasted but brings us together because the truth unites and love unites.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Spirit who unites the Father with the Son in Love, which in the one God he gives and receives. He unites us so closely that St Paul once said: "You are all one in Jesus Christ" (Gal 3: 28). With his breath, the Holy Spirit impels us towards Christ. The Holy Spirit acts corporeally; he does not only act subjectively or "spiritually".

The Risen Christ said to his disciples, who supposed that they were seeing only a "spirit": "It is I myself, touch me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (cf. Lk 24: 39). This applies for the Risen Christ in every period of history. The Risen Christ is not a ghost, he is not merely a spirit, a thought, only an idea.

He has remained incarnate - it is the Risen One who took on our flesh - and always continues to build his Body, making us his Body. The Spirit breathes where he wills, and his will is unity embodied, a unity that encounters the world and transforms it.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St Paul tells us that this Body of Christ, which is the Church, has joints (cf. 4: 16) and even names them: they are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (cf. 4: 12). In his gifts, the

Spirit is multifaceted - we see it here. If we look at history, if we look at this assembly here in St Peter's Square, then we realize that he inspires ever new gifts; we see how different are the bodies that he creates and how he works bodily ever anew.

But in him multiplicity and unity go hand in hand. He breathes where he wills. He does so unexpectedly, in unexpected places and in ways previously unheard of. And with what diversity and corporality does he do so! And it is precisely here that diversity and unity are inseparable.

He wants your diversity and he wants you for the one body, in union with the permanent orders - the joints - of the Church, with the successors of the Apostles and with the Successor of St Peter. He does not lessen our efforts to learn the way of relating to one another; but he also shows us that he works with a view to the one body and in the unity of the one body. It is precisely in this way that unity obtains its strength and beauty.

May you take part in the edification of the one body! Pastors must be careful not to extinguish the Spirit (cf. I Thes 5: 19) and you will not cease to bring your gifts to the entire community.

Once again, the Spirit blows where he wills. But his will is unity. He leads us towards Christ through his Body.

"From Christ", St Paul tells us, "the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love" (Eph 4: 16).

The Holy Spirit desires unity, he desires totality. Therefore, his presence is finally shown above all in missionary zeal. Anyone who has come across something true, beautiful and good in his life - the one true treasure, the precious pearl - hastens to share it everywhere, in the family and at work, in all the contexts of his life.

He does so without any fear, because he knows he has received adoption as a son; without any presumption, for it is all a gift; without discouragement, for God's Spirit precedes his action in people's "hearts" and as a seed in the most diverse cultures and religions.

He does so without restraint, for he bears a piece of good news which is for all people and for all the peoples.

Dear friends, I ask you to collaborate even more, very much more, in the Pope's universal apostolic ministry, opening doors to Christ.

This is the Church's best service for men and women and especially for the poor, so that the person's life, a fairer order in society and peaceful coexistence among the nations may find in Christ the cornerstone on which to build the genuine civilization, the civilization of love. The Holy Spirit gives believers a superior vision of the world, of life, of history, and makes them custodians of the hope that never disappoints.

Let us pray to God the Father, therefore, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost may be like an ardent flame and a blustering wind for Christian life and for the mission of the whole Church.

I place the intentions of your Movements and Communities in the heart of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, present in the Upper Room together with the Apostles; may she be the one who implores God to grant them.

Upon all of you I invoke an outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit, so that in our time too, we may have the experience of a renewed Pentecost. Amen!"