



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Services

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in the Catholic Church

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXII, Number 5

November - December 2006

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Formation

by Jim Murphy



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As we reflect on 40 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we must recognize the significant blessing the Pontificate of John Paul II was for this movement. Like a good father, he encouraged us when we were young, and helped us to grow as both he and we advanced in years.

Like a loving father, John Paul II often counselled us and showed us ways to grow closer to The Lord. One area he addressed was the challenge of formation:

“There is an urgent need to proclaim with strength as well as to have a solid and deep Christian formation. How much need there is today for mature Christian leaders, who are aware of their own baptismal identity, of their own vocation and mission in the Church and in the world! How much need there is for living Christian communities!... There is now a new stage for the growth of the movements, that of ecclesial maturity. Charismatic communities are also called today to take this step to ecclesial maturity.”

Make no mistake, John Paul II loved the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. As a good parent, he wanted to affirm us and yet take something that was good and make it better. John Paul II saw the Renewal not as a self-serving association that would care only for its own. Rather, he recognized that the CR was a sovereign action of the Holy Spirit, a gift from God for the good of the entire Church. Our Holy Father knew that the entire Church needed what the CR had to offer. Therefore he called us to a maturity that would allow us to serve all in the Church and truly help build up the body of Christ.

The Pontiff saw formation as the key to this maturity. He urged us to consider this seriously, and strongly act in the development of

people within the Renewal. He outlined this a little more clearly in his address to Charismatic Leaders in June 1998:

“The enthusiastic faith which enlivens your communities is a great enrichment, but it is not enough. It must be accompanied by a Christian formation which is solid, comprehensive and faithful to the Church’s Magisterium: a formation based upon a life of prayer, upon listening to the Word of God, and upon worthy reception of the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist. To mature in faith, we have to grow in knowledge of its truths. If this does not happen, there is a danger of superficiality, extreme subjectivism and illusion.”

As we seek to be formed in maturity with the Renewal, we would do well to consider key points of our beloved father’s advice:

Faithful to the Church’s Magisterium: Hopefully, by this stage of our lives, we are past the need to “do our own thing.” We are part of the Church; we are at the very heart of the Church. We are not trying to develop an alternative Church, we are trying to love and serve the Church that already exists, the Church established by Jesus Christ. To be sure, we have all seen the flaws within the bride of Christ. Yet as Christ has remained faithful to her, so must we. The Church demands of us, and has the right to expect from us, an unwavering loyalty to the Magisterium.

Life of prayer: One of the central elements of CCR has been a life of prayer. Yet, we honestly have to recognize that it is all too easy to abandon prayer due to the demands of life and ministry. Here is a fact: One can not be formed in maturity if one is unwilling to be formed in prayer.

Listening to the Word of God: What wisdom lies within the pages of this Holy Book! The very wisdom of God! If we truly want to mature, we must allow ourselves to be formed by what God speaks to us. The very effort of listening, and then acting on what we have heard will take us far down the path of maturity.

Worthy reception of the sacraments: With the extraordinary graces offered to us through the sacraments we have a fast-track to maturity! We must participate in the sacraments as often as possible in order that we will be formed in the Spirit of God.

All efforts of formation must include helping people appropriate these four key elements into their lives: A sincere love and relationship with the Church, a life of prayer, listening to and following the Word of God, and worthily receiving the sacraments.

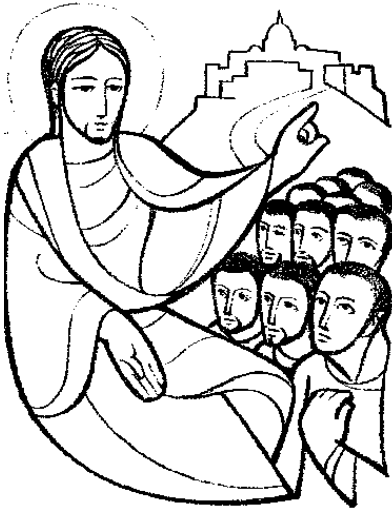
Can you imagine the fruit that would be born in our lives if everyone in the CCR put these four areas among their priorities? What blessings we would experience! How the Church would prosper!

If for no other reason than for the love of a great father who walked with us for so many years, let us seriously consider the role of service God has given us, and resolve to be formed in maturity, that we may be a blessing to the Church and prove ourselves the grateful sons and daughters of John Paul II.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



“I BRING YOU NEWS
OF GREAT JOY, A JOY
TO BE SHARED BY
THE WHOLE PEOPLE.
A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN
BORN TO YOU;
HE IS CHRIST
THE LORD”
(LUKE 2: 10 - 11)



The challenges to CCR by Pope John Paul II:

Proclamation

by Michelle Moran

In 1975 Pope Paul VI in the document *Evangelii Nuntiandi* said that 'evangelisation is the grace and vocation proper to the Church; where she finds her deepest identity to evangelise; that is to say in order to preach and teach'. Yet for some people evangelisation is still seen as something to be feared or something not natural for Catholics. In the CCR the graces of Baptism in the Holy Spirit have unlocked a new power for evangelisation. We read in Acts 2 that when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in the Upper room each of them received a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This empowerment was not just for their personal sanctification but they were also given a new grace of evangelisation. Consequently, they rushed out into the streets eager to share with others the message of the Good News. In CCR this pattern is also true that many people who experience a new or deeper personal relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit are also eager to share this newly discovered living faith with others.


Leading up to the third millennium Pope John Paul II frequently spoke about a new springtime in the Church. Clearly he understood the enormous challenges posed by modern society to faith and the Church but John Paul II was also a man of hope and a prophet. In *Redemptoris Missio* (1990) he said 'I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelisation and to the mission *ad gentes*. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church, can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all people'. John Paul II recognised the need to find new

and innovative ways for the Good News to be proclaimed and to impact society. The 'new evangelisation' would be: new in its methods, new in its zeal and new in its expression. Speaking to the Church in Europe John Paul II re-emphasised this call, 'Church in Europe, the new evangelisation is the task set before you! Rediscover the enthusiasm of proclamation. Let the proclamation of Jesus, which is the Gospel of hope, be your boast and your whole life. Carry on with renewed zeal'. The Pope also highlighted the distinction between a first proclamation and a renewed proclamation. The first is addressed to those who have not yet had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel message whilst the renewed proclamation is needed even for those who are already baptised. Emphasising the need for ongoing conversion John Paul states 'we must enable those who are already baptised to be converted to Christ and his Gospel'.

Obviously, the 'content' of the Gospel message is unchanging being focussed upon the person of Christ and on the eternal Gospel message. However, the new characteristics include the sense that evangelisation is the calling of every Christian not just something left to the 'professional' priests or religious sisters. In *Christifideles Laici* (1988), John Paul II emphasised the importance of witness of life and of presenting ourselves as a living proclamation. 'It is the duty of lay Christians to make their daily conduct a shining and convincing testimony to the Gospel'. This is also emphasised in the Apostolic Exhortation, *Ecclesia in Europa*. 'The Gospel of Hope, received and assimilated by the Church, calls for daily proclamation

and witness'. This can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. So along with the challenge of witness of life was also the invitation from John Paul II to constantly be drawn into a life of intimacy with the Lord through prayer. Indeed the universal call to holiness underpins all our evangelistic efforts.

The complementary themes of contemplation and proclamation were further highlighted in the document *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. Here all Christians were invited to spend time contemplating the face of Christ as 'from him we receive the gift of the Spirit and the command to proclaim the Gospel to all nations'. Perhaps these words can provide us with some reflection on our own realities in the CCR. John Paul II encourages us to keep growing in the life of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just a one off experience it is only the beginning of a life-long journey into wholeness and holiness. We are called to keep faithfully looking to the Lord, then from that place of contemplation we are empowered to go out. In some of our expressions of the Renewal we may have become too inward looking. Gazing at the face of the Lord always leads us out in mission and service of our brothers and sisters. Conversely, other groups can be too activist, busy doing the work of the Lord but at the same time neglecting to give quality time to the Lord of the work.

There are three key words that are used by JP II to summarise the ministry of evangelisation these are: Proclamation, Celebration and Service. We can profitably use these as a measure of our faithfulness to the call to evangelise. You may want to reflect on your group or community and ask. In our group how do we proclaim the message? How do we celebrate the Good news? and how do we serve our brothers? 

The ICCRS Staff change

After some six and a half years of unstinting generous service as office accountant at ICCRS, Charles Owusu-Ansah is leaving us to continue his studies in England.

We all wish to thank him for his witness and devotion following the path of Jesus and his disciples. Please pray for him and his beautiful family (his wife Filomena and daughter Daniela).

At the same time we welcome Annalisa Paolino (from Italy) who is taking over Charles' post as office accountant.

ICCRS

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The ICCRS Newsletter is the International Newsletter published bimonthly in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the world.

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June, 3-22 2007

ICCRS offer opportunity of formation!

II International Leadership Formation Institute

In the last years of his life, Pope John Paul II, recognizing the contribution the CCR could make to the entire Church, urged members of this movement to increase efforts of formation within the Renewal. Responding to this plea, ICCRS opened its first International Leadership Formation Institute in June of 2005. By all indications the Institute was a huge success, serving nearly 50 students from over 15 countries.

ICCRS will be offering its second Leadership Formation Institute programme, scheduled June 3-22 2007, in Rome. Classes will include studies in scripture, ecclesiology, Mary, the Holy Spirit, Kerygma, and CCR.

In addition, much of the time will be used to give practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of ministry with the CCR. Students will receive much practical. "do-able" advice and experience that they can take home with them. There will also be time set aside for prayer, mass, Eucharistic adoration, and ministry. A priest will be at the Institute full time, serving as chaplain.

An international team of teachers will serve during the three weeks and Jim Murphy, ICCRS councillor, will serve as Director of the Institute.



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In addition to what is already being offered, the Institute will make several field trips, visiting both various Vatican offices, and visiting key historical sites in Rome. In this way, the Institute students will have a living contact with the Church today and an understanding of its early, historical, and cultural roots.



Reserve your place now! Call ICCRS at (+39) 06.69887538 or email us at info@iccrs.org

Space is limited!

Fr. Emmanuel Tusiime Member of the ICCRS Council

Fr. Emmanuel Tusiime was born in Bunyaruguru, Bushenyi; Uganda. He is the 8th born of eleven children. He was baptised when he was 2 weeks old. He joined the Minor Seminary as a teenager and became a diocesan priest on 10th August 1991.

He encountered the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1983 when he joined Katigondo Major Seminary, and has remained an active member ever since. He has served as curate, Parish Priest and as Archdiocesan Youth

Chaplain. In 1991, he started the 3rd prayer group in Mbarara Archdiocese, and through his ministry, the Renewal grew to 362 vibrant prayer groups by 2003 in that Archdiocese. Since 1992 he has been the member of the Uganda National Service Team, and is now a member of the executive Committee of Uganda NST.

In 1997, he founded a Residential Covenant Community called 'Yesu Ahuriire Community' (Meaning 'Jesus is Alive

Community') with 14 full time Lay Evangelisers at present. He is the current chairperson for the Consultation of Catholic Charismatic Leaders of Anglophone Africa (CONCCLAA). He is gifted in the Healing and Deliverance ministry, and loves facilitating Life in the Spirit Seminars for Priests and Religious. He also conducts 'Course Paul' with a Team. He has a particular devotion to the Eucharist.

May the Lord continue to accompany him in serving His Church. 🙏

50th Anniversary of Priesthood

Fr. Rufus Pereira is a former member of the ICCRS Council of ICCRS. The whole family of the CCR celebrates his call to the vocation of priesthood. We pray that the Lord may continue to bless him and that the Holy Spirit will continue to give him the charisms he needs in building His Church.

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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 * The Newsletter will be sent by MAIL only to those who clearly request this service on the form and who are able to pay €30 per year (including postal expenses);
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Please, don't forget to accompany our service with your prayer. May God bless each of you with his Holy Spirit.

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THE CHALLENGES OF JOHN PAUL II TO THE CCR: FORMATION AND PROCLAMATION

BY JAMT

“THE ENTHUSIASTIC FAITH WHICH ENLIVENS YOUR COMMUNITIES IS A GREAT ENRICHMENT, BUT IT’S NOT ENOUGH...



IT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CHRISTIAN SOLID FORMATION WHICH IS SOLID, COMPREHENSIVE AND FAITHFUL TO THE CHURCH’S MAGISTERIUM.

A FORMATION BASED ON A LIFE OF PRAYER, UPON LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD, AND UPON WORTHY RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS, ESPECIALLY RECONCILIATION AND THE EUCHARIST.



TO MATURE IN FAITH WE HAVE TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF ITS TRUTHS.

“IN OUR TIME THAT IS SO HUNGRY FOR HOPE, MAKE THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWN AND LOVED. HELP BRING TO LIFE THAT ‘CULTURE OF PENTECOST’



“OUR TIME SORELY NEED MEN AND WOMEN WHO, LIKE RAYS OF LIGHT, WILL KNOW TO CONVEY THE CHARM OF THE GOSPEL AND THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT”.

“.. TO BE WITNESSES OF THE ‘REASONS OF THE SPIRIT’: THIS IS YOUR MISSION, DEAR MEMBERS OF THE RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, IN A SOCIETY WHERE HUMAN REASON OFTEN SEEMS TO LACK THE WISDOM THAT COMES FROM ABOVE”.



WITH FERVENT INSISTENCE, NEVER TIRE OF PRAYING: ‘COME HOLY SPIRIT! COME! COME!’”