

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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International Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal  
Services  
Serving  
the Charismatic Renewal  
in the Catholic Church

The Holy Father to the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic  
Covenant Communities and Fellowships

## “Put out into the deep!”

“**G**race to you and peace  
from God our Father  
and from the Lord Jesus  
Christ” (I Cor 1:3).

With the words of the Apostle Paul I greet you on the occasion of your Conference being held in Rome on 20-27 June, 2001. The Fraternity brings together many communities of the Charismatic Renewal throughout the world, all of them committed to deepening their ecclesial identity in the heart of the Catholic Church. Because of this commitment, you have chosen the sure path of communion with the successor of Peter and with the Pastors of your local Churches. This is the path of unswerving fidelity to the Magisterium, which you rightly see as a charism given to the Church to ensure that she never fails in the presentation of the truth which comes from God. In a world where the very concept of truth is at times cast into doubt, this is a precious witness, for which I give glory to God.

Your Conference is taking place at a time when the whole Church, looking back to the grace of the Jubilee Year, praises the Most Holy Trinity for that extraordinary gift. But it is also a time when the Church looks with confidence and hope to the century and the millennium that lie before us. As I stressed in my Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, this must involve pastoral planning. “Now we must look ahead”, I wrote, “we must ‘put out into the deep’, trusting in Christ’s words: *Duc in altum!*... The experiences we have had should inspire in us new energy, and impel us to invest in concrete initiatives the enthusiasm we have felt” (No. 15).

What is true for the whole Church is certainly true also for the Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships. The time has come to plan for the future, so that the new evangelization to which the Church is now summoned will draw still greater energy from the grace of your calling. Grace is the ground of all our action (cf. *ibid.*, No. 38); and holiness is the goal to which all our planning looks.

Holiness has at its core the contemplation of the Lord Jesus, and all our planning must seek to lead people to a deeper awareness of the One who is the only Saviour of the world. This requires mature and faithful prayer, and I give thanks to God for the way in which your communities help people experience more deeply the mystery of prayer, so that they come to see “the glory of God on the face of Christ” (2 Cor 4:6).

But this is an unending journey of discovery, and now “the time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone [the] high standard of ordinary Christian living” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 31). The Church and the



**The members of the Executive and Council of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships gathered in Rome, last June 20-27. Card. Stafford and Bp. Rylko, President and Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, were also present at this meeting for a short visit. On this occasion, the Holy Father John Paul II wrote a message to the**

**Fraternity that we publish in this special issue (English version from the original copy) and that Bp. Rylko read and commented to the assembly. Allan Panozza, President of ICCRS, participated in a session of the meeting sharing his experience in the Charismatic Renewal with participants in this Conference.**

world need saints! And all the baptized without exception are called to be saints! This is what the Second Vatican Council meant when it spoke of “the universal call to holiness” (*Lumen Gentium*, 5). Let your communities, therefore, be more and more “genuine ‘schools’ of prayer, where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly ‘falls in love’” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 33). For this is what the saints are: people who have fallen in love with Christ. And this is why the Charismatic Renewal has been such a gift to the Church: it has led a host of men and women, young and old, into this experience of the love which is stronger than death.

Let this experience now more than ever spur you on to mission. For contemplation which does not give birth to mission will eventually wither; and mission that does not spring from contemplation is doomed to frustration and failure. I pray most fervently that your communities and the entire Charismatic Renewal will “put out into the deep” of prayer in order to “put out into the deep” of mission. Then you will help the whole Church still more to live that life of action and contemplation which is the womb of evangelization.

Entrusting your General Assembly to the unfailing protection of Mary, Bride of the Spirit and Mother of the Church, I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing to the Fraternity and to your communities as a pledge of endless mercy in Jesus Christ, “the firstborn from the dead” (Col 1:18).

From the Vatican, 22 June 2001-06-27

**Johannes Paulus II**

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## The Holy Father writes to participants in the annual Conference of “Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo”, held in Rimini, Italy, last April

### “Tend with all your might towards holiness”

*Publishing the letter that the Holy Father wrote to participants in the 24<sup>th</sup> National Conference of “Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo” (one of the expression of the Charismatic Renewal), ICCRS wants to give to readers of the Newsletter, and to all members of the Charismatic Renewal, the authoritative teaching of the Pope, to strengthen us in living our call to holiness and to give us all equipment necessary for mission.*

To My Revered Brother  
Mariano De Nicolò, Bishop of Rimini

**1.** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Cor 13:13) With these words from the Liturgy, I wish to address my affectionate greeting to you, my revered Brother in the Episcopacy, to the Leaders and members of the National service Committee, as well as to all those who are meeting in Rimini for the XXIV National Conference of the prayer groups and communities of the Renewal in the Holy Spirit (RnS *Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo*).

Coming right after the closing of the Holy Year, the theme of this year’s meeting, “Do whatever Jesus tells you” (Jn 2:5), highlights the intention of your ecclesial movement to follow the schooling of Mary and start out on a new journey of spiritual fervour and obedience to the Gospel.

The Evangelist, relating the experience of the Apostles after the resurrection of their Master, says that “the disciples rejoiced at seeing the Lord” (Jn 20:20) Yes, it is this same joy, the gift of the Risen one, that makes believers capable of looking to the challenges of the new Millennium with joy.

In the apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, I wrote “Now... ‘we must put out into the deep’, trusting in Christ’s words: *Duc in altum!*” (n.15) This is the time for new apostolic initiatives. It is time for new evangelisation!

**2.** In the face of the great challenges of the modern age we must be well aware that “we shall not be saved by a formula but by a Person”. For this reason the Renewal is also called to start afresh from Christ, “it has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfilment in the heavenly Jerusalem. (n. 29)

This intention of a renewed commitment for the Gospel demands first of all a rediscovery of holiness as heart and centre of all apostleship: it is necessary to tend with all our might towards holiness, to “to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this *high standard of ordinary Christian living*: the whole life of the Christian community and of Christian families must lead in this direction.” (31) The movements and new ecclesial Communities, as a special gift of the Holy Spirit to the Churches in this time of ours, must know how to respond faithfully to this call of the Lord. To be docile with readiness and generosity to the Paraclete, which shapes us to Christ: this is the road whereby believers can offer their testimony of hope to a humanity which

is often permeated by a secularised culture, which foments and promotes godless patterns of life and risks making the world inhospitable and an enemy of man.

**3.** There is no holiness without prayer. In fact, as we see in the lives of the Saints, Christians are worth as much as they pray. The commitment to adhere to the word of Jesus with great willingness and generosity, so as to bring His salvation to the world requires a renewed discovery of “the great means of prayer”. In our world, which is sometimes sick with efficiency and utilitarianism, there is a need for witnesses to “the things of above”, contemplated and lived out in everyday existence.

This commits that the groups and communities of the Renewal be ever more places of contemplation and praise, where the heart of man is filled with the love of God, opens up to the love towards his brother and becomes capable of building history according to God’s design.

It is in the Church – home and school of communion – that we which must oppose the culture of hatred and revenge, may the groups and Communities of the Renewal (RnS) be significant places and models of brotherhood and love, of patience and reciprocal welcoming. May the experience of forgiveness and the value given to every spiritual gift help everyone to build a fellowship nourished by the breath of the Spirit of the Risen Lord.

**4.** “Do whatever Jesus tells you” (Jn 2:5) This theme invites us to look to the icon of the Wedding at Cana, where the new relationship of the disciples with the Lord is moulded by the discreet and effective presence of Mary. She is the privileged and sure way for an encounter with the Lord; it is she who prepares us to welcome his Word and makes us persevering in prayer, in the expectation of the Spirit who inflames our hearts and leads us to put out into the deep with courage, towards the goals that the Lord is indicating.

To Mary, she who is entirely holy, I entrust the National Conference of the Renewal, so that the Holy Spirit, by renewing the miracles of Pentecost, may fill the hearts with the fire of His love and transform the participants into courageous and joyful announcers of the Gospel.

With these wishes, with all my heart I impart to you, my Venerable Brother, to the Leaders, to those present and to all the groups and communities of the Renewal in the Spirit a special apostolic blessing, pledge of abundant gifts and heavenly consolations.

From the Vatican, April 28, 2001

**Joannes Paulus II**

**ICCRS**

**International Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal Services**

*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.*