



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Services

Serving

the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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What the Lord is doing for and through the CCR:

Reflections of a pioneer

by Patti Mansfield

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Patti Mansfield

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You have lost the love
you had at first

LEADERSHIP FORMATION

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“I want a miracle!” These were words I tacked up on a bulletin board February 18, 1967 during the Duquesne Weekend. Little could I imagine that the miracle God would send involved a worldwide move of the Holy Spirit, now encompassing over 119 million Catholics.

“Whenever the Spirit intervenes He leaves people astonished. He creates events of amazing newness. He radically changes persons and history.” (Words of Pope John Paul II at the Vigil of Pentecost, 1998) We are witnesses that the Spirit has intervened! Yes, we are astonished! And He is in the process of renewing, not only us, but the face of the earth!

Over these 40 years, here are the questions I've been asked most often.

Why would God start such a significant move of His Spirit with such an insignificant group of people?

It's His style! Isn't it wonderful that our God is so humble that He associates with “little ones” ...shepherds, carpenters, fishermen. In our case, it was ordinary university students who were the recipients of an extraordinary visitation of the Holy Spirit. I think the Lord wanted to make it absolutely clear that the Charismatic Renewal was His idea, His initiative, His work. It was -and still is- pure grace: unmerited, undeserved gift!

The lesson: Let God be God! Pray, seek Him, then expect Him to act. Perhaps another lesson is that God wants to mobilize young people and the laity for the New Evangelization still before us. Invest in young people and ask God to send a new move of the Spirit upon them.

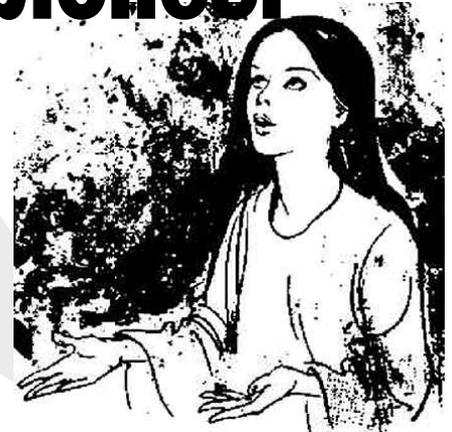
What is at the heart of the Charismatic Renewal?

Baptism in the Holy Spirit! My summary of being baptized in the

Spirit is found in Romans 5:5: “The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Millions now know the Father as “Abba”...a dear “Daddy”. “Jesus is Lord” is not just a phrase out of the Bible. It is life and life more abundantly! To know Jesus as a living Savior, Master, Friend, Lover, LORD -all this is thanks to the Baptism in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is no longer the forgotten Person of the Trinity, but the One whom we invoke with a continual “Come Holy Spirit!” over every aspect of our lives and work.

The lesson: Do all we can to bring people into the Baptism in the Spirit. It is a grace for the entire church. My friends in Brazil, where 12 million are already baptized in the Spirit, have set a goal to reach another 20 million with this grace in the Jubilee Year. Remember what the Baptism in the Spirit has done for you. Tell your story again. Offer Life in the Spirit Seminars, plan Days of Renewal, retreats, conferences where people can come into contact with this living stream of grace which is the Baptism in the Spirit. Pastors, encourage your young people to expect to receive charismatic as well as sanctifying gifts of the Spirit at Confirmation. Have your congregation renew their own Confirmation just like we renew our Baptismal promises. At the Vigil of Pentecost, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI led a ceremony to renew the Sacrament of Confirmation with 400,000 members of ecclesial movements and new communities. It was this very impulse to “renew confirmation” on the Duquesne Weekend that led us into the Baptism in the Spirit.

How do you feel to have been there at the beginning and to see the scope of this movement today? How do you feel to have



spoken to Pope Benedict XVI on behalf of all the movements on the Vigil of Pentecost last year?

I feel in some small way like Our Lady. What one “Yes” can do! When Mary said her “Yes” to God, she could not imagine the ramifications of that assent...those mysteries -joyful, luminous, sorrowful, glorious- that awaited her. Mary's surrender changed the course of human history and now all generations call her blessed. Your “Yes” and my “Yes” are the same. They unleash a chain of events in the lives of others whose conversions are linked to ours. It's truly mysterious and wonderful. I can't tell you how many people all over the world feel linked to me simply because I said “Yes” to God on the “Duquesne Weekend” as a 20 year old girl.

The lesson: Take your place! Be like Mary in radical openness to the plan of God. Remember: “You are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God has prepared ahead of time for you to walk in them (Eph. 2:10). This passage came alive for me as I stood before the Holy Father last June, aware of my nothingness yet confident, (“even to audacity,” as St. Therese loved to say), confident in the power of God's Spirit. Who knows what surprises the Holy Spirit has in store for you!

“Glory be to Him whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, glory be to Him in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, world without end. Amen!” (Eph. 3:20)

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ICCRS visit to Latin America in October/November 2006

by *Oreste Pesare*

For ICCRS, 2006 has been a year full of graces! The most recent experience that I would like to share with you is the official visit of ICCRS to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Latin America. Your faithful prayers and support are what enables us to continue our mission, and you must know that the Lord hears us! After this journey I can truly testify that the CCR is very alive in Latin America!

In November, a delegation from ICCRS (Allan Panozza - President, Bp. Joe Grech - Council Member, and Oreste Pesare - Director) flew to Santiago, Chile, to participate in the last day of the annual meeting of the CONCLAT (Consejo Carismático Católico Latinoamericano). CONCLAT is an organisation that is made up of the Chairpersons and Spiritual Advisors of the 24 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking NSCs in the Americas. The current President is Mr. Miguel Mendoza from Mexico. This meeting between ICCRS and CONCLAT was a strategic point in God's plan to continue renewing all of the Americas, home to 65% of the worldwide CCR.

Among other issues, ICCRS also officially communicated to the leaders present that at the next ICCRS Council meeting (April 2007) a new Councillor will be elected to represent ICCRS in Spanish-speaking North & Central America and the Caribbean. Alleluia! Our President, Allan, was forced to return to Australia immediately after the CONCLAT meeting due to health problems.

Bp. Joe and myself then participated in the first two days of the general meeting of Latin American leaders, ECCLA (Encuentro Católico Carismático Latinoamericano) which followed the meeting of CONCLAT, also in Chile. Approximately 600 people participated in this wonderful celebration. At one point the whole assembly prayed for the members of CONCLAT and ICCRS together - this

was a very powerful moment of prayer and unity!

These two meetings were only the first leg of a long journey that took me to 5 different countries in 1 month! After ECCLA I went to Jacksonville for a meeting (which I will refer to later) and then met up with Bp. Joe again in Brazil to participate in the Council Meeting and subsequent International Conference of the Catholic Fraternity. The Catholic Fraternity is an organisation with Pontifical rights that gathers together many of the most representative new Charismatic Communities from the 5 continents. The venue for this very important meeting was the citadel of the Canção Nova Community in Cachoeira Paulista, very close to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Aparecida in the region of São Paulo.

The experience was truly wonderful. Thousands of people came together for a single purpose, testifying to the vitality of the Communities in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. At the same time, about 40 Bishops, all friends of the communities, came together for the first time. This was a wonderful experience for all of them. Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was present among the Bishops.

Bp. Joe returned to Australia after our meeting in Brazil, and I continued to the next stop: Perú. I spent a wonderful weekend of formation in Lima with about 5000 leaders of the Peruvian CCR. I preached at this retreat together with Fr. John Mario Montoya, a Eudist priest from the El Minuto de Dios community in Colombia with whom I am blessed to share a long and beautiful friendship. My time in Lima with the national leaders of this wonderful country was a powerful experience of friendship and the grace of the Lord.

After the weekend in Lima, I returned to Brazil to spend a fantastic two days in a Charismatic Community in São Paulo before going to Argentina for a weekend retreat with about 1000 members of the CCR in Buenos Aires. I was happy to preach this retreat with Fr. Dario Betancourt, a good friend of mine and a very well known preacher in the CCR. The Lord's message was very strong - Alleluia! I was deeply touched by the warm welcome that I received in Argentina.

During my travels I was blessed to meet with Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne, Archbishop of Lima, and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires. I spoke with them about many matters relating to the CCR, both in Latin America and worldwide.

Lastly, I must mention my 3 days in Jacksonville (Florida), where I visited Francis and Judith MacNutt at the headquarters of their organisation Christian Healing Ministries (CHM). ICCRS and CHM are organising a School of Healing Prayer for Leaders in April / May 2007. We are certain that the school will be very powerful and useful for people who want to work correctly in this very delicate area of ministry in the CCR. We are expecting many people from all over the world to be present for this event.

If I should summarise all that I have shared with you in one sentence, I would have to say, with absolute conviction, that the Lord is doing great things in the CCR and also with ICCRS! The challenges for the Third Millennium are many, and we need you who are reading this article: we need your prayer, we need your support in spreading the word about ICCRS activities and the ICCRS Newsletter, and lastly we need your continued financial support to help us to continue this important service for the CCR and for the whole Church. We need you, Jesus needs you, and he invites you to be collaborators in carrying out the ICCRS mission! 

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International
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June, 3-23 2007

ICCRS offers an opportunity for 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 within 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.



www.iccrs.org

In addition to what is already being offered, the Institute will make several field trips, visiting both various Vatican offices, and 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 formation@iccrs.org

Space is limited!

ICCRS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR ASIA-OCEANIA (ISAO) CONSTITUTED

The leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Asia-Oceania came together for a gathering of prayer, sharing, discernment and planning in Singapore on 9th and 10th December, 2006 under the auspices of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), Rome. 42 leaders from the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, East Asia and Oceania including Mr Allan Panozza, President of ICCRS attended the meeting. Based on the sharing during the meeting, it was decided to set up an ICCRS Sub-Committee for Asia-Oceania (ISAO) for a three-year term. In the year 2000, an ICCRS Sub-Committee was established in Europe for establishing stronger bonds of fellowship in the Renewal in that continent. In 2004, a similar Sub-Committee was established in Africa, uniting both the English and French speaking people of the region.

Through prayer and discernment the following were chosen to serve on the ISAO Council: Fr Joy Menacherry OFM Cap, UAE; Mr Cyril John, Fr Rufus Pereira and Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ from India; Pakistan and Bangladesh (a member each to be nominated by the respective National Service Committees); Fr Bart Pastor, Philippines; Mr Gerard Francisco, Singapore; Mr Felix Ali Chendra, Indonesia; Mr Jude Antoine, Malaysia; Fr Paul Hata CP, Japan; Ms Marietta Gube, Hong Kong; Br James Shin, South Korea; Ms Anne Marie Gatenby, Bishop Joe Grech and Mr Dan Hewitt from Australia; Mr Brendan Woodnutt, New Zealand and a representative to be chosen from the Pacific. Mr Allan Panozza being respectively and Mr Oreste Pesare President and Director of ICCRS Council automatically become member of the ISAO Council.

The Council met separately on 10th December and chose the following office-bearers of ISAO: Mr Cyril John (India) as Chairman, Mr Felix Ali Chendra (Indonesia) as Vice-Chairman; Mr Gerard Francisco (Singapore) as Secretary and Mr Brendan Woodnutt (New Zealand) as Treasurer. The Sub-Committee decided to set up its head office in Singapore. The Sub-Committee will be responsible for strengthening fellowship within the CR in the Region, convene consultations and events and also to reach out and support those countries which are in need of guidance and help. At the first sitting of the ISAO Council, it was decided to organize its first event, a Conference of Leaders of the CCR in the Region in October, 2007 in Bogor, Indonesia to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the CCR. The Executive Committee will meet in February, 2007 to plan follow-up of the suggestions which came up at the meeting and to plan the future events.



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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BY JAMT

