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Charismatic Renewal

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ICCRS NEWSLETTER

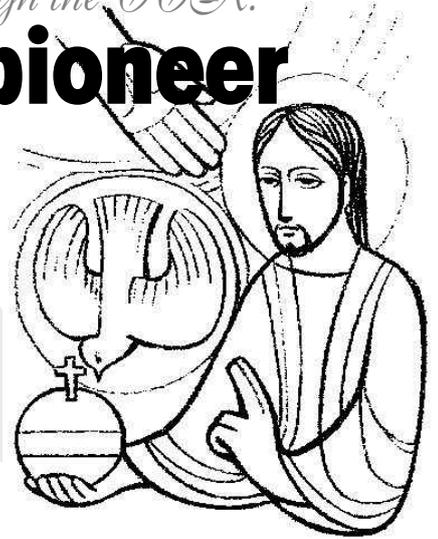
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Reflections of a pioneer

by *Ralph Martin*



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The CCR is a remarkable fulfillment of the prayer of Pope John XXIII for a "new Pentecost" and a remarkable embodiment of so many of the main themes of Vatican Council II. When recent popes have attempted to sum up the main thrust of Vatican II they often do it by singling out two themes: the call to holiness and the call to evangelization. When Pope John Paul II called the Church to live out more and more a "spirituality of Pentecost" or a "culture of Pentecost" he included in his meaning both the call to holiness and the call to evangelization. The culture of Pentecost is both contemplative and charismatic. While as a whole Church we're not there yet, we're certainly on the way.

Let me in this short article just pick out a few of the encouraging signs I see that the culture of Pentecost will indeed spread more widely in the heart of the Church.

I believe that the hard theological and scriptural work that has quietly been done over the years, in particular the work of Fr. Kilian McDonnell and Fr. George Montague, but many others as well is just beginning to bear fruit and has great potential for the future. There is now a solid body of work that establishes that the work of the Holy Spirit and the charismatic gifts are not just the property of a particular movement or group but the property of the whole Church. The hard work of various national and international service committees in promulgating the fruit of this work has been equally important, as has been the support of particular bishops. And we are beginning to see remarkable fruit. Let me share an example from my own experience.

Not too many years ago, known "charismatics" wouldn't have been that welcome to teach at major seminaries, or if they were to teach, they wouldn't be expected to teach "charismatic theology." But that is

changing. In the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan, the Sacred Heart Major Seminary warmly welcomes both seminarians and faculty members who have been deeply touched by the *r e n e w a l*. (www.shmsonline.org) Spiritual directors affirm and guide their experience in a positive way. Other faculty members lead a prayer-community of faculty, staff and seminarians who regularly meet to pray and share and who regularly make available Life in the Spirit Seminars within the seminary for others who might be interested.

I have been asked to join the faculty and teach courses in both spirituality and evangelization as an Assistant Professor of Theology. I also serve as the Director of our Graduate Theology Programs in the New Evangelization. We offer three graduate degrees with an emphasis on New Evangelization including an STL degree which is a Pontifical Degree granted in association with the Angelicum University in Rome. It is the only Pontifical Degree currently being offered on this level with a focus on the New Evangelization, which of course includes major attention to the work of the Spirit. We currently have priests and lay students from 9 different countries studying with us in Detroit in these degree programs. In the courses that I and others teach we study extensively the work of the Holy Spirit in both His contemplative and charismatic dimensions, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit, with special attention to the Acts of the Apostles.

Many faculty members and seminarians have been touched by the Renewal and there is a maturity, mutual respect and harmony in the seminary which is a joy to experience. We now have about 100 seminarians and over 400 permanent diaconate

candidates and lay men and women studying in different programs.

Besides my work in the seminary I also continue my work with Renewal Ministries (www.renewalministries.net) which works in more than 25 different countries carrying out the mission of renewal and evangelization. Just recently our Director of Missions, Peter Herbeck, returned from a special consultation we were sponsoring with Cardinal Turkson of Ghana, whose purpose was to assess how the work of evangelization is going in Africa. The consultation was very fruitful and in due course the reports on it will be made available. One of the highlights for Peter was meeting Bishop Tony Gubji from Enugu, Nigeria who has implemented the realities of the renewal in his diocese in a remarkable way, requiring the hundreds of seminarians and priests in his diocese to go through Life in the Spirit Seminars and Evangelization schools as a basic part of their training.

As the Church throughout the world is facing great challenges, whether they be the challenge of aggressive, secular, anti-Christian influences, or the challenge of her own weakness and infidelity, or the pressure of Islam, or the "competition" of non-Catholic movements and churches, increasingly the Lord is leading the Church to repentance, humility, deepening faith and a greater reliance on Him. As the Church recognizes her need for more of God's Spirit there are great reasons to hope.



On the occasion of the **40th anniversary** of the **Charismatic Renewal** in the **Catholic Church**, the Secretariat of State of the Vatican City, on behalf of His Holiness **Pope Benedict XVI**, sent us a brief but profound **message of encouragement**. Please visit our website www.iccrs.org to **read the message!** and page 2 of this issue for our comment.



Abiding joy and strength in Jesus

A comment on the message from the Holy Father on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the CCR

I want to share with all of our readers and friends the message that our President, Allan Panozza, received from the Vatican State Secretariat, written on behalf of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, regarding the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the unforgettable eruption of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church.

“On this happy occasion His Holiness joins you in giving thanks to the Father for the many gifts bestowed upon the Church in the past four decades. It is his hope that an ever richer experience of the Spirit will lead to an increased thirst for holiness, a more convincing witness to the Gospel and an unswerving commitment to the building up of Christ's body in unity and peace.”

As you can appreciate, the Holy Father has entrusted us with a complete programme for our personal growth as people of the Spirit and for our mission as witnesses of the Good News.

Let me underline three fundamental ideas that constitute the treasure of this message, and that inspire us to accomplish our mission, to become protagonists in this flow of grace for a powerful evangelisation in the Holy Spirit:

a) An ever richer experience of the Spirit will lead to an increased thirst for holiness

Since the beginning of my conversion I have known that the first characteristic of the Holy Spirit is that he is holy and he makes people holy. What the world of the third millennium needs is holiness: to be transformed into a new humanity; for each of us to go from being the “old man” to being the “new man”, the man of the beatitudes, the image of Jesus Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit - gentle, pure of heart, patient, hungry for justice, etc. To be holy is to give space in our hearts to God. He is holy and we will become holy if we allow him to reign in our hearts. Let us open the doors of our hearts and invite the Holy Spirit to take his rightful place on the throne.

b) A more convincing witness to the Gospel

Certainly our Spirits rejoice when we realise that our Holy Father is inviting us to evangelise by our example rather than by our words. Many years ago Pope Paul VI also said that world of

today is more in need of witnesses than of teachers. From the beginning, the strength of the Charismatic Renewal's message has been in the witness of what the Lord is able to bring about in the lives of believers. So, let us spread the Good News of salvation with a new emphasis on how we live our lives rather than on our words.

c) An unswerving commitment to the building up of Christ's body in unity and peace

It is clear that our current Pope Benedict XVI puts the unity of the body of Christ as a priority in the life of the Church. As convinced “Charismatics” we have a special responsibility to the whole Church to put into practice and testify to the goodness of St. Paul's teachings regarding diversity and unity in the body of Christ. How good and exemplary it is to rejoice for the gift of our brothers and sisters; to thank Jesus because he uses others in wonderful ways; to accept the different expressions of the body of Christ that may be manifested in others. We are called to cast aside any envy, any jealousy, any spirit of rivalry, etc. Let us be promoters of a new spirituality, encouraging and giving value to every life, to every person those who we work and live with, and also those who we only meet occasionally looking for the positive aspects like Jesus did, rather than concentrating on the negative.

Brothers and sisters of the Charismatic Renewal, what do you think? Pope Benedict XVI is challenging us very profoundly on this the occasion of our 40th anniversary. I feel strongly that we should consider this as a new opportunity to reach the Ecclesial maturity that the Church is calling the lay movements to, so that we can be a sign for all people in the third millennium. This challenge guides us in the same direction as the words that Pope John Paul II spoke during his last address to the CCR during the Pentecost Vigil in 2004: “I desire that the spirituality of Pentecost be spread in the Church, as a renewed thrust of prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation.”

Thank you Jesus, and thank you Pope Benedict XVI, for your love and your encouragement. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will be faithful.

Oreste Pesare, ICCRS Director

ICCRS

International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Services

Postal Address:

Palazzo della Cancelleria
00120 Vatican City, Europe
Tel.: +39 06 69 88 75 38 / 65

Fax: +39 06 69 88 75 30

E-mail: info@iccrs.org

newsletter@iccrs.org

Web site: <http://www.iccrs.org>

Fax prayer line: +39 06 69 88 75 74

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**30 April - 5 May 2007
Wyndham Jacksonville
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Cosponsored by The National Service Committee of the United States



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, 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 CCR, 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 and a closing Charismatic Healing Rally

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 CCR. I look forward to greeting many of you in Jacksonville, Florida on 30 April 2007.

Allan Panozza, President of ICCRS

Dariusz Jeziorny Member of the ICCRS Council

Dariusz Jeziorny (Dareck) was born in Kepno in 1968. His family later moved to Ostrow Wielkopolski, where he finished primary and secondary school. There he met a charismatic group as a teenager (he was then 17). He was fascinated but had very loose relations with the charismatics. In 1987 started his studies in Lodz and there experienced his first seminar of life in the Spirit in the new students' group in 1987/1988. He was chosen as leader of that group (the Strong in the Spirit) in 1994 and served there until the vacations of 1996. In June 1996 he was elected as coordinator of charismatic groups in the Lodz diocese.

In 1997 he became a member of the NSC and a vice-president of the NSC in 1999 for 3 years. Currently he is still a member of the NSC

and will continue until 2007. Spiritually he was educated in the Charismatic Renewal in connection with the experience of an Ignatian (Jesuit) retreat in 1988. He has a special commitment to personal prayer and Bible reading. His main activities are: organizing events [such as annual national conferences in Czestochowa (1992-1999) and a big meeting with Fr. Emiliano Tardif at the Lublinek airport for 250,000 people in 1996, healing prayer, spiritual discernment individually and in community, and teaching. Darek was married to Agata in February 2000. On 31st March 2003 their first son August was born.

He joined the ICCRS Council in March 2004, and represents the Eastern Europe. May the Lord continue to accompany him in serving His Church. 



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

International Congress for New Evangelisation

After Vienna 2003, Paris 2004, Lisbon 2005 and Brussels 2006, the International Congress for New Evangelization, is finalizing its preparation for Budapest 16-23 September 2007.

These yearly Congresses, which follow the same pattern every year (praise, plenary sessions, witnessing, Eucharists presided by Cardinals, and multiple workshops), are a School of evangelization, of ecclesial communion, and an opening to Europe, for the participants. Slowly a dialogue can be established between the new communities, old religious orders, various Catholic movements, lay people associations, parish groups, Christians looking to deepen their faith, and non Christians wishing to dialogue.

The most fascinating aspect is that each year, everything starts anew. In fact, under their Cardinal, Catholics in the Capital who welcome the participants, organize their own program of spreading the Good News. This program which is different from the Congress that is held in one place, Cathedral or Basilica, takes place in different areas of towns. The organization of such a program requires the collaboration of many people, and this helps different groups to mix with others they would not normally meet. Interaction is necessary with artists, with political figures, religious leaders (public debates), with groups that specialize in evangelization (in the street, through shows or concerts), with press and media groups, and with parishes that open their doors (to welcome people, for prayer, adoration, reconciliation).

In Budapest, the challenge is unique, as it always has been. We shall be in a Capital City of the East, where de-Christianization is very strong, and the wounds of the past so deep. How can we help people discover that it is in Christ, who is the source of all healing and reconciliation, except through our conversion and witnessing? Let us intercede for all those who volunteer for this congress and this mission in the town, so that the Lord opens new ways that show His Glory, and prepare His Coming.

India



The National Service Team of the CCR in India organized the XIIIth National Catholic Charismatic Convention at the Divine Retreat Centre in Kerala from 27th to 30th December, 2006 as a spiritual preparation for entering into the year 2007 which marks the 40th Anniversary of the world-wide Renewal and the 35th Anniversary of the coming of the Renewal to India. The theme of the Convention was "Build the Body of Christ". His Eminence Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, CSsR, Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly inaugurated the Convention. The ICCRS delegate from South Korea, Bro. James Shin, delivered a message. Ms. Mary Healey from the USA was the main speaker. Other speakers were Most Rev. Valerian D'Souza, Most Rev. Sebastianappan Singaroyan, Most Rev. Prakash Mallavarappu, Fr Rufus Pereira, Fr A.J. Thamburaj, among others. The Eucharistic Celebrations were pre-sided over by His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore Toppo. The Korean Team-Kkottongnae Community of Brothers and Sisters of Jesus kept the audience spellbound during the Musical Nite on 28th with their instrumental music, dance and praise and worship. About 20,000 people from all parts of the country and abroad attended the Convention. The Convention was indeed a Divine Experience! Halleluia!!!

Indonesia



On Friday 2 February 2007 the ICCRS President, Mr. Allan Panozza

arrived in Indonesia to meet with the Executive members of the ICCRS sub Committee for Asia/Oceania (ISA). The committee was greeted by flood waters which were inundating large areas of Jakarta, but with God's help the meeting was able to continue throughout the weekend, and a final program has now been formed for an ICCRS regional Conference (Asia/Oceania) to be held outside Jakarta 1-5 November 2007. More details later.

Peru



The Peruvian CCR organised the 6th National Meeting of Service Leaders in the port of Callao-Lima from 3rd to 5th November attended by six thousand leaders dedicated leaders of the CCR from the 27 Dioceses of the country. It was a wonderful event marked by unity, spiritual renewal and service from each participant. The main contributors were: our brother Oreste Pesare representing ICCRS, who presented the dvd "A New Pentecost" on a giant screen, and gave details of its importance and significance, and Fr John Mario Montoya cjm. The opening mass was celebrated by the bishop of Callao, Mons. Miguel Irizar, and the final mass, by the archbishop of Arequipa, Mons. Cesar del Rio. We are grateful to our Lord Jesus for the blessings received during this event and for sending us out to evangelise our whole country. The frontline of Evangelisation has already started for "A Peru renewed with the power of God". This is the way we shall celebrate 40 years of the CCR in the world: Evangelising!

Turkey



First Charismatic Mission in Turkey Istanbul, 1-3 December 2006

In December 2006, in the wake of the Pope's visit to Turkey, three members of the Magnificat Community (Oreste Pesare and Stefano Ragnacci from Italy, Agneza Timpu from Romania) flew to Istanbul for the first ever charismatic mission in Turkey! They had been invited to give teachings and testimonies at two Life in the Spirit Seminars that were being conducted by Fr. Anton Bulai, parish priest at the Church of St. Anthony of Padova, Istanbul. The groups attending the two seminars were completely different: one made up mostly of English-speaking Nigerians, and the other made up of native Turks; the members came from Catholic (Roman, Armenian and Syrian), Orthodox (Armenian and Syrian), Protestant and Muslim backgrounds. During the weekend of 2-3 December, 35 people in the Turkish group and 30 people in the English group received the prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! God gave an excellent testimony to himself despite differences in race, culture and even religion, he welcomed and blessed everyone...

The weekend also included a visit to His Excellency Mons. Louis Pelatre, Apostolic Vicar of Latin Istanbul, who was very welcoming and full of paternal affection. He generously imparted his blessing on his missionary sons in his local Church. Fr. Anton asks us to pray for the church in Turkey, that the Lord "...may have so many people that belong to [him] in this city..." (cf. Acts 18:10).

CR TAKE COURAGE!: IT CONTINUES LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT

BY JAMT

THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE ONE WHO DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, THE HOLY, THE TRUTHFUL, THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEY OF DAVID - WHATEVER HE OPENS CANNOT BE CLOSED - WHATEVER HE CLOSES CANNOT BE OPENED. SAYS THIS



I KNOW YOUR HARDSHIPS AND YOUR POVERTY, ALTHOUGH YOU ARE RICH, AND I KNOW THE SLANDERS OF THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES JEWS, WITHOUT BEING SO, WHO ARE IN REALITY A SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SUFFER. THE DEVIL IS GOING TO PUT SOME OF YOU IN PRISON SO THAT YOU MAY BE TEMPTED AND SUFFER HARDSHIPS FOR TEN DAYS. STAY FAITHFUL EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO DIE AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE.



NOW, FOR THE ONE WHO HAS KEPT MY TRUST AND BEEN PATIENT, I WILL STILL PROTECT YOU IN THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION, I WHO AM GOING TO COME UPON THE ENTIRE WORLD TO TEST THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH.



I AM COMING SOON. KEEP A FIRM HOLD SO THAT NOTHING MAY BLOW AWAY YOUR CROWN.

I KNOW ABOUT ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES. LOOK, I HAVE OPENED BEFORE YOU A DOOR WHICH NO ONE CAN CLOSE BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE LITTLE POWER, YOU HAVE KEPT MY WORD AND HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME.



"ANYONE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET THEM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCHES" REV 2: 8-II. 313