



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Services

Serving

the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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March - April 2008

Patristic history of Charisms

by Fr Joseph Bentivegna



This issue

Patristic history of Charisms

Pentecost of the Nations!

2nd Edition of
School of Healing Prayer

Strip cartoon:
Patristic and Charisms

LEADERSHIP FORMATION

Look again!
The Church's missionary
mandate. Overview of
Redemptoris Missio

Testimonies from the
continents: SOUTH AMERICA

Questions to ICCRS

ERRATA

In the Newsletter Vol XXXIV,
Number 2:

p.1, column 1 (Zp 8:13) is to
read (Zc 8:13).

p.2, under the Charism of
Power n.3, line 5 "Peter
and Paul" is to read "Peter
and John."

"...Baptism with the Holy Spirit' or 'baptism of fire' are the expressions used by our Lord to signify the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which should have been, as he had promised, the characteristic of the new times, of the times of the Church..."

The best account of how charisms were received and practised throughout the first centuries of the Church can be found in the numerous works of St. Augustine, who died in 430 a.d.

In this short article I collect the main chapters of his description about the Holy Spirit and Charisms in the Church.

I. PERENNIAL EXPERIENCE OF PENTECOST IN THE CHURCH

The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the 120 disciples who were gathered in the upper room must be considered as a turning point in the history of our redemption: at that moment the birth of the Spirit came among us.

"Baptism with the Holy Spirit" or "baptism of fire" are the expressions used by our Lord to signify the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which should have been, as he had promised, the characteristic of the new times, of the times of the Church.

II. BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT IS AN EXTRASACRAMENTAL EVENT

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit constitutes and is the qualifying moment of the work of sanctification, that God completes in those who believe in Christ. That this outpouring of the Spirit is extrasacramental is clearly demonstrated by his first coming in the story of salvation. The apostles and disciples were already baptised with the baptism of water before the ascension of the Lord; already baptised also, are those who throughout time in the Church receive, in a special way, this outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

III. PRAYER FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When that preparation has been carried out, the outpouring of the pentecostal Spirit may be prayed for.

1. The pentecostal Spirit that is still given and even now comes upon Christians is a pure divine action;

and such it remains even though, very often, the Spirit is given in connection with our prayer and with the laying of our hands on those who ask for it.

2. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was promised by Christ, is beneficial not only for those "who still do not have the Spirit, but also for those who already have the Spirit." This Spirit is again given to those who already have him so that they may possess the same Spirit more abundantly according to their own holiness.

3. The laying on of hands by which the pentecostal Spirit is often given is not like the baptism of water, which may not be repeated. It is nothing else but a prayer over someone.

IV. BENEFITS OF THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

Although the pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit is a real mystery, nevertheless there is much to say about the benefits and the free manifestations of this supernatural happening. Here is the report of some advantages often mentioned in the works of the Fathers.

1. A continuous healing: The baptism of water annuls our iniquity, but does not put an end to our illness; many kinds of weaknesses still remain in our flesh and prostrate our soul.

The Church is "the inn" where the Holy Spirit takes care of all our infirmities through a continuous service of healing until our health reaches its full perfection and.

2. The distribution of charisms: A single member of the Church is allotted some charisms, but the distribution of these charisms is regulated only by a divine, inscrutable and free design. This explains how in the Church there are some people who work miracles, others who proclaim the

truth, some who have one gift, some who have another.

V. SOME CHARISMATIC PHENOMENA

1. Resting in the Spirit is the event of being 'slain in the Spirit' which takes place when some people who are prayed for fall to the floor and frequently remain for some period of time in a kind of trance, during which they are not unconscious, but their motor and sense faculties are diminished or seem temporarily suspended.

2. Prophecy is a free manifestation of the holy Spirit by which some people receive a communicable intelligence of truths connected with our salvation but impervious to any natural understanding. The true prophet has no need to proclaim that he is a prophet for he has no doubt of any kind; in this regard 'he judges all things and he himself is judged of no man' (1Cor 2:15).

3. Discernment of spirits is a spiritual gift through which a believer, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, is able to express a sure judgement about things that are too profound for our intelligence to be naturally assessed.

4. Praise with jubilation. Singing with jubilation is a most elevating blessing which is given to us through the pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We sing in jubilation when God himself gives us the tone of the melody that we must sing. It is the Spirit that helps us to yield to singing with such a celestial melody, where our heart utters sounds which cannot be expressed in words, where all our being manifests to God its joy for the health received through the divine Spirit.



Pentecost of the Nations

... for a new culture of Pentecost

by Oreste Pesare & Kim Kollins

An ICCRS 10 day Pentecost Project - May 2-11, 2008

An answer that the worldwide CCR offers in response to the desire expressed by both Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI to spread the "culture of Pentecost" (JPPI, May 2004 - Benedict XVI, Sept 2005)

A fruit of 40 years CCR

A project that only ICCRS can propose, develop and offer: an invitation to the worldwide CCR (ICCRS: the organisation, whose task is to coordinate and promote exchange of experiences and reflections among Catholic Charismatic Communities throughout the world - JPPI, 2000)

**In 2008, let's do
it together
-united
worldwide for
10 days in
Pentecost of the
Nations- for a
new culture
of Pentecost!**

In 2006, in preparation for the Pentecost meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, ICCRS called forth Operation Upper Room. In the last years, many countries and tens of thousands people on all continents have participated in this worldwide prayer event network. This year ICCRS is launching a two-part project - **Pentecost of the Nations 2008 - for a new culture of Pentecost**, which integrates Operation Upper Room, May 2-10, now with the Pentecost Day Celebration on May 11.

Operation Upper Room, May 2-10

Is a vision to unite as CCR, worldwide, in Novena Prayer Events, night and day, thereby weaving a dense global prayer network of adoration and intercession before Pentecost.

Get involved

* In a variety of Upper Room events organized by NSCs, prayer groups, communities:

* 9 night & day Pentecost Prayer Networks (national, regional or local), Special prayer meetings;

* Burning Bush Cenacles; Prayer Vigils; 3-day Pentecost Triduum.

Register your events

So we can rejoice together at the marvels of what the Holy Spirit is doing;

* NSCs organized nationally can register as a nation; otherwise communities, groups or individuals can register directly;

* When 'registering': give the type of event/s, date/s, an time/s and number of expected participants.

Pentecost Day Celebration, May 11

The vision of Pentecost Day Celebration is a unique celebration organized by NSCs and CCR realities in all nations of the earth testifying under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the culture of Pentecost in the great Charismatic family.

* It is an occasion to unite and simultaneously evangelize in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus to many different countries of the world in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that many people will hear preaching in their own language about the marvels of God. (cf Acts 2:11)

* It is a half day meeting consisting of a time of charismatic prayer, one or two short teaching, testimonies, solemn invocation of the Holy Spirit and a final concert to glorify God!

* **One celebration, many locations.** An internet or satellite video link between all of the various celebrations to witnesses to the fact that the Catholic Charismatic world is truly praising God together, united in proclamation of the Good News to the ends of the earth in the power of the Holy Spirit!

This affords a chance for the worldwide National Service Committees and all other CCR realities to collaborate in the mission of ICCRS. As well as a good opportunity to organize an official collection during the 10 days of events giving support to the service of ICCRS.

For information and/or registration:

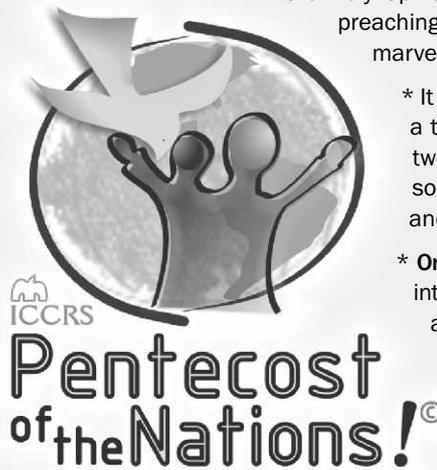
Operation Upper Room 2008

e-mail: UpperRoom2008@aol.com

Att: Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins

Pentecost Day Celebration 2008

e-mail: events@iccrs.org Att: Fabio Anglani



Go to www.iccrs.org - see the promotional video (downloadable, make copies and share with others)

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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.

Permission is granted to reprint an article from the ICCRS Newsletter as long as ICCRS is quoted as the source. Recommended subscription donation: €20 (by e-mail) and €30 (by ordinary mail) by year. Payable by cheque, bank transfer or credit card payments directly to ICCRS.

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*We are
looking forward
to seeing you !*

This **second conference** will be more in-depth than the first one, so that all those who attended this year and can return will benefit by the experience. At the same time, we encourage everyone who was not able to come to the April's 2007 conference to come to this one. You will be able to take part fully even if you were not able to come to the first. The topic will be: "Becoming a transformed person and Church through Jesus Christ's healing power."

Please, visit our website www.iccrs.org for further information. For registration, please visit the Christian Healing Ministry website: www.christianhealingmin.org



Christian Healing
Ministries, Inc.

Francis
& Judith MacNutt

School of Healing Prayer® for Leaders 2nd edition



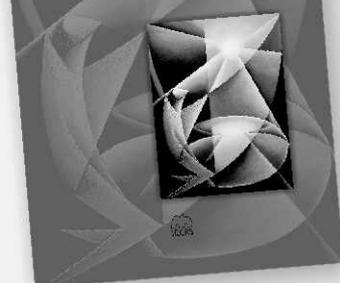
20 - 25 October 2008
Wyndham Jacksonville
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Co-sponsored by the National
Service Committee of the United States

new

**Guidelines on
Prayers for Healing**
by the Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS



Guidelines on Prayers for Healing by the Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS

This booklet will be of great assistance to those who seek to continue their function within the healing ministry of Jesus, recalling the promise which he gave to his disciples '...they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover...' (Mk 16:18).

Guidelines on Prayers for Healing, ICCRS, Vatican City 2007.

53 pages.

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NEWS FROM THE WORLD

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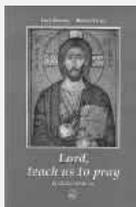
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Charismatic Renewal: A Grace, a Challenge and a Mission



The Vocation of a Leader: Called, Gifted and Sent



Lord, teach us to pray. Leader's Manual



Prayer for Healing & Guidelines on Prayers for Healing



A sign of hope for all people

India



The Inner Healing Retreat and Conference for Directors of Retreat Centres and Teams was held from 3rd to 7th December at Niveditha, Chungamvely, Kerala organized by NCCRS and the National Service Committee of CCR in India. Led by Fr Anil Dev IMS and Fr Jose Prakash this was a mountain top experience. 72 participants 20 priests, 11 religious and 41 lay people attended. Both preachers made us reflect deeply on various areas which lead to healing. Listening to the Word of God, emotional and physical healings began on the first day itself. The Inner healing retreat led us to the understanding that a chosen man of God must lead a life of Holiness and Humility. Such retreats will help produce wonderful priests, religious and layministers and to have a vibrant Spirit filled Church in India.

Ireland



The 2008 meeting for leaders of the CCR in Ireland took place at Greenhills in Dublin on 12th January. It was not to be a "cosy" meeting but one of great challenge. Marie Beirne, Chair of the NSC in Ireland, was the main speaker and she came up with the word 'You have not listened to Jesus' call to "Go out to the whole world and spread the Good News." Quoting 2 Cor 6,1 "Do not accept the grace of God in vain." She said, 'this is the time to move out; what we have received we must give away'. The meeting was reminded of Pope John Paul II's prayer in 1979 which led to the vision to offer every person in Ireland the opportunity to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Peru



The National Service Committee of Peru organised a series of events during January and February as follows: A day of praise and healing with the theme "Nothing is impossible to God" was held on 20th Jan in the Manische stadium in the city of Trujillo. The event was attended by more than 18,000 and Fr Rufus Pereira from India, a former member of the Council for ICCRS, participated. The XIV Priests' Retreat with the theme, "Celebrating a new Paentecost" took place from 22nd to 25th, with 140 priests attending. The preacher was Fr Rufus Pereira. Another day of praise and healing with the theme "Nothing id impossible to God" was held in the Mariscal Caceres Colliseum in Lima on 27th. Six thousand people attended. The contributors were Fr Felipe Scott and Fr Rufus Periera. From the 28th to the 30th the

Leaders' Healing Retreat was held with more that 300 attending. From 1st to 4th Feb a retreat for the NsC was held to discern in prayer what the Lord is hoping from the CCR and to plan and develop the ICCRS initiative "Pentecost of the Nations", for a new culture of Pentecost throughout the country of Peru.

Spain



The 29th National Assembly of the Spanish CCR was celebrated in Madrid from 6th to 8th July 2007. The Assembly took "Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead" (Col 1:18) as its theme. The speakers included Gregorio Lopez, former National Chairman of the CCR in Spain, and Luis Ferreira the National Chairman of the CCR in Portugal. Fr Francisco Requen, spiritual advisor to the Spanish CCR presided at Mass on 6th and 7th. The Assembly closed with Mass by H.E. Msgr Ricardo Blasquez, Bishop of Bilbao and president of the Spanish Bishops' Conference.

Why support the mission of ICCRS?

We report the thanks of so many people who receive the ICCRS Newsletter free of charge. Your donations support the mission of ICCRS. Help us to support the CCR!

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the ICCRS NEWSLETTER, Praise Jesus our risen lord!

Thank you so much for keeping me in your mail. I am a spiritual director of [...] charismatic prayer group. The articles in the Newsletter are a great help in understanding more the workings of the Holy Spirit, and in my teachings. It also inspires me to know what is happening in other parts of the world with the CCR movement. Here in the rural parish of [...] 50 kilometres from the city surrounded by fields and mountains, for a parish priest like myself, the Newsletter is a kind of visitation of the Holy Spirit moving us to love and to serve Jesus and the Church joyfully. Please continue to send me news about the Charismatic Renewal. [...] May the Holy Spirit continue to empower ICCRS with joy and zeal for the Kingdom.

PATRISTIC AND CHARISMS

BY JAMT

"WHAT AND ARTIST IS THE HOLY SPIRIT! HE GIVES INSTANT INSTRUCTION AND TEACHES ALL WE NEED TO KNOW. FROM THE MOMENT HE TOUCHES OUR INTELLIGENCE, HE ENLIGHTENS US. A SINGLE TOUCH FROM HIM AND AT ONCE WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE. AND WHEN HE ENLIGHTENS US, HE CHANGES OUR HEARTS." ST GREGORY THE GREAT

"JUST AS ILLUMINATED BODIES RADIATE LIGHT, SO ALSO, SOULS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE LIT UP BY HIM. THEY BECOME SPIRITUAL BEINGS AND SPARKLE GRACE ONTO OTHERS."

KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE, THE UNDERSTANDING OF MYSTERIES AND SECRETS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHARISMS HEAVENLY JOY, THE JOY OF THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS, INFINITE JOY - ALL SPROUT FORTH FROM HIM. PERSEVERANCE WITH GOD AND THE DEEPEST LONGINGS MAKE US COME TO BE LIKE GOD." ST BASIL. TREATISE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT CHAP. IX

"EVERY MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IS CHARISMATIC." ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

"I WILL GIVE YOU ALL KINDS OF CHARISMS IF YOU WILL NOT SADDEN THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH SIN." ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM (315-386)