



International Catholic  
Charismatic Renewal  
Services

Serving  
the Charismatic Renewal  
in the Catholic Church

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXV, Number 1

January – February 2009

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by Michelle Moran

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a great joy to greet you at the beginning of 2009. Here at ICCRS we have had a time of moving and transition but we are now fully operational in our new offices. At the end of January, Cardinal Rylko presided at a Mass for the official inauguration and blessing of our new premises. We have also seen some changes in personnel. In December we said a fond farewell to Sharon Fox from USA. Sharon served ICCRS well over the past year. We will miss her joy, humour and kindness. In August, we welcomed Clare Scully from England and at the beginning of January we were pleased to be joined by Stephano, who is Korean but came to us from USA.

Please do keep the ICCRS staff in your prayers. As you can imagine they face many challenges trying to serve the worldwide CCR with limited resources and finances. I am deeply grateful to all of them for the many personal sacrifices that they make by responding to the call to serve the Lord through the mission of ICCRS.

Looking back over 2008, for me, there were many 'Charismatic' highlights. I made around 26 overseas trips visiting 14 different countries in 3 continents. It was a great pleasure in April, to co-host the Leader's Colloquium on the Charisms with the Catholic Fraternity, in conjunction with the Pontifical Council of the Laity. Such gatherings are important, as we are able to theologially reflect upon the essence of the Renewal and also share from our varied pastoral experiences. The texts from the Colloquium will soon be ready for publication.

I was also privileged to participate in two events organised by the Vatican. The first was an international gathering of Bishops who were looking at 'the Ecclesial Movements and the pastoral concern of the Bishops.' Then, in November, the Pontifical Council of the Laity met on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Christifideles Laici. We reflected upon developments, such as the growth of the Ecclesial movements, that have taken place in the vocation and mission of the laity in the Church and world. Undoubtedly, one of the main highlights of 2008 was being appointed by Pope Benedict as an auditor at the Synod on the Word of God. It was profoundly moving to have the great honour of addressing the Holy Father on behalf of all CCR.

For me, as President, these official engagements are an important indication of the way in which the Church values, encourages and supports the various new moves of the Spirit that are evident today. We should take this as a great sign of encouragement, hope and blessing.

We are living through turbulent times economically at the moment as the global financial crisis worsens. This will undoubtedly have an impact upon all of us.

Also, some of our friends are experiencing new levels of persecution. I especially remember in prayer those in Orissa and other parts of India who may well be called to the supreme sacrifice of martyrdom. Then there are those whose religious freedom is restricted in such places as the Middle East. At Pentecost 1975, Ralph Martin had a prophetic word in St Peter's Basilica, in the presence of Pope Paul VI. It spoke of a time of darkness and purification in the Church.

*"Difficulties and trials will come upon you....I will lead you into the desert....I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so depend just on me."*

We have certainly experienced this in a wide variety of ways. During these challenging times in the Church and in the World we need more of the Spirit so that we can respond in faith.

In my community, during our new-year celebration of midnight Mass, I sensed the Lord saying,

*"I do not want a people who only pay me lip service. I need a courageous people who will walk my ways in faith even though the way ahead may be unclear or difficult. I give you my Spirit so that you may follow me. Open your hearts and minds more fully, clear away any obstacles as I want to give you more of my Spirit."*

I am sure that many people will face difficulties and challenges in the coming year. The Lord has, however, been steadily raising up an army of praying people, many of whom are Charismatics. This army has been shaped by the universal call to holiness. It has been formed and equipped during the Church's time of darkness. Our task is now to have courage to step out in faith and evangelise, as a missionary people, empowered by the Spirit. The prophesy in St Peter's also contained this exhortation, "a time of darkness is coming on the world, but a time of glory is coming for my Church, a time of glory is coming for my people... I will prepare you for a time of evangelisation that the world has not yet seen." As we move into 2009, let's harness the many graces, blessings and gifts that we have received through CCR and pray for the boldness and courage to be the people whom the Lord is calling us to be.

I am united to you in love and prayer,

Michelle Moran,  
President of ICCRS

*"I do not want a people who only pay me lip service.*

*I need a courageous people who will walk my ways in faith even though the way ahead may be unclear or difficult. I give you my Spirit so that you may follow me. Open your hearts and minds more fully, clear away any obstacles as I want to give you more of my Spirit."*

# Novity for the ICCRS Newsletter

by Peter Thompson

*“The newsletter prior to the advent of the internet and its development as a major means of communication throughout the world was physically mailed out to approximately ten thousand subscribers in over ninety countries.”*

To the many who have subscribed to the ICCRS newsletter over many years, and to those who have only recently begun to receive the newsletter, we wish to share with you regarding the new format that begins with this issue.

The newsletter prior to the advent of the internet and its development as a major means of communication throughout the world was physically mailed out to approximately ten thousand subscribers in over ninety countries.

This gradually became an extremely expensive way of disseminating information and ICCRS was subsidizing the newsletter to the tune of over eighteen thousand euros every year.

This naturally could not continue as it was a poor use of the funds that were given to ICCRS. The internet has allowed ICCRS to distribute the newsletter at a greatly reduced cost, however we were still facing a deficit in its distribution and not reaching anywhere near the numbers that we originally were mailing to.

Realizing that one of the primary roles of ICCRS is to be a means of communication to the Catholic charismatic renewal worldwide we decided to try a different approach with the newsletter.

At our last annual council gathering the newsletter committee made the decision to separate the newsletter into two component parts. The first part focusing upon news items relevant to all and the second component focusing on teaching and leadership formation.

The first component will be emailed free to all subscribers and we hope to expand our email base by large numbers so that important information can go out throughout the world. With this in mind we urge those of you who receive the newsletter to advise others in your region who would like to receive this free communication via email. We therefore need email addresses to ensure that the word can go forth.

The second section will be available to all who desire to avail themselves of the excellent teaching articles that come from the pens of ICCRS councillors who come from the far corners of the globe. This is available for the modest fee of fifteen euro per annum via email. Many service committees worldwide use these same articles with ICCRS permission in their own periodicals and they are also excellent teaching tools that can be used at the prayer group level.

In this way ICCRS is seeking to serve the CCR more effectively getting basic news out to vast numbers of those in the CCR worldwide by means of the internet. More and more we realize that many in poorer nations of the world who make up the majority of the CCR worldwide now have a growing access to electronic means of communication.

This will also mean that we can use the funds donated to ICCRS more effectively and be good stewards, enabling ICCRS to fund the growing need for teaching and leadership formation in the CCR. 

## First Gulf CCR Leaders' Conference

by Mr. Mae Britto, India

“Let the fire fall again,” was the theme of the First Gulf CCR Leaders' Conference which took place at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Abudhabi (UAE) from 7th–9th December, 2008 (9am–7pm daily). This was just one initiative of the ICCRS Sub-Committee for Asia–Oceania (ISAO), whose aim is the networking and promotion of Renewal activities in Asia; and is headed by its

Chairman, Cyril John (also Vice-President ICCRS and Chairman, NST – India).

However, it is Rev. Fr. Varghese Chempoly, OFM, cap. (Convener and Chairperson, GCCRS) and the team of leaders from the Gulf Countries, whose planning, preparation and mobilization needs much commendation for the Conference attracted no less

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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. The ICCRS Newsletter is free to receive by e-mail, and the Formation Leadership Newsletter is available for a subscription of fifteen euro per year by e-mail.

#### ICCRS Council Members

Mrs. Michelle Moran, *England (President)*  
Mr. Cyril John, *India (Vice President)*  
Mr. Robert C. Canton, *USA*  
Mrs. Ma Jose Cantos de Ortiz, *Chile*  
Mrs. Maria E. de Gongora, *Guatemala*  
Bp. Joe Grech, *Australia*  
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Mr. Peter Thompson, *Canada*  
Fr. Renato Tisot, *Italy*  
Fr. Emmanuel Tusiime, *Uganda*  
Mr. Marcos Volcan, *Brasil*

**Director of ICCRS Office**  
Mr. Oreste Pesare, *Italy*

**ICCRS Advisors**  
Mr. Allan Panozza, *Australia*  
**Administration and Events:**  
Mr. Claude Lopez, *Australia*

# UPCOMING EVENTS




## Leadership Training Course in Gaborone, Botswana

for more information, visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)

**Apr 20–27, 2009**

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is a way for ICCRS to help foster leadership in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In partnership with local Charismatic realities, ICCRS provides this week-long program that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.



## Love in Action in Kkottongnae, South Korea

for more information, visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)

**June 01–09, 2009**

There have been many conferences held throughout the years in the CCR, but one upcoming event deserves special attention. ICCRS will be sponsoring an important, international event in South Korea in early June, 2009. The theme of the event is “Love In Action.” The conference will be hosted by the Kkottongnae Community, a Catholic charismatic community composed of both religious and lay people. The CCR has sometimes been wrongly accused of having only “pious thoughts” but offering no real service to the needy. Kkottongnae is a shining example of how the Holy Spirit leads men and women not only to care for the souls of others, but to care for their lives as well.



## Leadership Formation in Rome, Italy

for more information, visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)

**Sep 05–26, 2009**




In September, ICCRS will be offering its third Leadership Formation Institute program. Classes will include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Mary, Pneumatology, Kerygma, RCC, Leadership and Ministry. Much of the time will be used to give practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of ministries within the CCR. Students will gain valuable experience that they can take home with them. In addition, the students will go on several field trips.

## ICCRS supports: Ars 2009 International Priest's Retreat in the village of Ars, France

for more information, visit [www.retraitears2009.org](http://www.retraitears2009.org)

**Sep 27–Oct 03, 2009**

You who are priests are invited to participate in this moment of spiritual strengthening. It will enable all of us to be renewed in our ministry and to taste the joy of a fraternal encounter among priests from the world over. This will be the occasion to pray fervently for priestly vocations.





Keynote Speaker  
Cardinal  
**CHRISTOPH  
SCHÖNBORN**  
(Archbishop of Vienna)



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# ICCRS.ORG

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me!  
 Let anyone who believes in me come and drink!  
 As scriptures say,  
 "From his heart shall flow streams of living water!"  
 (Jn 7:37-38)

To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you have questions, opinions, criticisms, or would simply like more information regarding ICCRS and the contributors to the ICCRS Newsletter, please visit our website at <http://www.iccrs.org>.

You can find general information regarding the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, or more up-to-date details about the Movement; such as upcoming events, leadership resources, and helpful links for further involvement.

We have also been archiving back issues of the ICCRS Newsletter for reference since 1994, as well as contact information for those interested in submitting testimonies, prayer requests, or seeking support. We value your feedback and look forward to hearing from our Charismatic family.

## ICCRS OPENED THE NEW OFFICE

The 30th of January marked the official opening of the ICCRS office at Palazzo San Calisto. The Celebration commenced with a joyful Eucharistic Celebration presided by Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, followed by a light reception which proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing.

The President of ICCRS, Michelle Moran was present at the Celebration along with approximately 100 supporters and invited guests who represented the different catholic charismatic realities here in Rome.

In an inspired and encouraging homily, Cardinal Rylko clearly stated three important goals of ICCRS which are: Communication with the Holy See and bridge-building among all the CCR realities, encouraging faithfulness to the magisterium among CCR and continuing to foster Ecclesial maturity through offering programs of training and formation. Praise the Lord for this new important step for ICCRS here at Palazzo San Calisto.

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“...*Rain down, down, Spirit of God’. And rain it did! The unusual, heavy, pre-dawn rain on the first day was just a forerunner to the Holy Spirit raining down through every activity listed in the well-drawn up, daily schedule.*”

than 1800 leaders from six Gulf countries (UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia) and was a great success and truly memorable. Six dignitaries who were present and a tremendous source of inspiration and encouragement were: His Excellency, Most Rev. Paul Hinder, OFM, cap (Vicariate of Arabia); His Excellency, Most Rev. Camillo Ballin (Vicariate of Kuwait); Mrs. Michelle Moran; Cyril John, Rev. Fr. Varghese Chempoly and Rev. Fr. Joy Menacherry (Jt. Convener).

The striking Inaugural Ceremony concluded with the release of 6 pairs of white doves, 5 of which remained at the venue all throughout the 3-day program! This was followed by a welcome dance and the theme song by the Covenant Singers – “Rain down, down, Spirit of God”. And rain it did! The unusual, heavy, pre-dawn rain on the first day was just a forerunner to the Holy Spirit raining down through every activity listed in the well-drawn up, daily schedule. The Inaugural Eucharist and homily by Most Rev. Paul Hinder set the tone by calling us during Advent to “clear the runway”, remove everything that is a block, and until Jesus comes again, keep preparing the way. So also was the powerful “*Keynote Address*” delivered by Michelle Moran, who animated the gathering to “Encourage one another”(Heb.3:13) and spelled out how to do so.

From then on the Conference gathered momentum through the various sessions – “*Rosary & Litany of the Saints*” to start each day and “*Vibrant Praise & Worship*” led by teams from the various countries, “*Eucharistic Celebration*” and challenging homilies by Most Rev. Camillo Ballin, “*A Workshop on Charisms*” and “*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*” by Mae Britto & Bob Canton, “*Group Sharing & Planning*”, “*Testimonies*”, and the following, stirring inputs: “*Having begun with the Spirit...*” (Gal 3:3,4), “*Forgiveness & Inner Healing*” and “*The Call to Leadership*” by Bob Canton; “*The Renewal Needs Renewal*” and “*What is the Spirit saying to CCR today*” by Cyril John; “*The Call to Holiness*” by Rev. Fr. Varghese Chempoly, “*Called to Grow in Ecclesial Maturity*” by Fr. Joy Menacherry, and “*Charisms of the Holy Spirit*” and “*The Urgency of Intercession*” by Mae Britto.

The Conference ended with a “*Song Fest*” led by the Covenant Singers – glorifying God for having nourished and strengthened His flock. Its impact can be gauged by the eagerness and whole-hearted response of the participants who expressed their desire for more such gatherings. Overall, the need to be “fully Catholic and fully Charismatic” emerged surely and strongly, and all present were “*fired*” with a renewed zeal and commitment to love and serve Jesus, Our Saviour and Lord. 