



International Catholic  
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Services

Serving  
the Charismatic Renewal  
in the Catholic Church

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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## It is Kairos for Asia-Oceania

by Cyril John

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### Leadership Formation

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I have been a member of the ICCRS Council since June, 2006. When I sit back and reflect about the Church and the Renewal in Asia-Oceania, the strong conviction that emerges within me is that it is a time of "Kairos" for my region. The Greek word "Kairos" signifies "the right or opportune moment when something special happens". The more I try to analyze the happenings of the past, the things happening around and the rise in persecution of the Church, my conviction grows stronger and stronger. I would like to share with you briefly some of the reflections leading to this conviction.

### The CCR in the yesteryears

The Renewal came to the Asia-Oceania region in 1969. Looking at the past, I realize that the Renewal in the region had been making attempts to come together for the past three decades without any lasting effect. Some of these attempts were: (i) The Asian Leaders' Conference held in Bangalore, India from 8 to 12 November, 1985 where leaders from 14 Asian countries participated; (ii) The Asian CCR Leaders' Conference organized in Karachi, Pakistan from 9 to 13 July, 1992 which brought together 9 countries; (iii) the formation of the Catholic Charismatic Council (CCC) for Asia-Pacific in 1994 in the presence of Fr Ken Metz, Director of ICCRS Office; (iv) the first General Assembly of Asian Leaders held in Bundu Tuhan, Sebah, Malaysia from 18 to 22 November, 1995; (v) the First Asia-Pacific Leaders' Conference planned by the CCC in Bogor, Indonesia from 7 to 12 October, 1996 that had to be called off subsequently because of political turmoil in Indonesia at that time; and (vi) the First Asia-Oceania CCR Conference organized in Manila, Philippines from 15 to 18 May, 2005 attended by members of the CCR from 9 countries but was more a Philippino CCR event. Despite all these efforts, a stable leadership structure or network could not be established in the region.

It is thanks to the efforts of Allan Panozza that after along time of prayer and waiting, the ICCRS Sub-Committee for Asia-Oceania (ISAO) was formed in December, 2006 when the key leaders from 14 countries came together in Singapore. Although with no contacts with the Renewal realities in as many as 25 countries in Asia and 16 countries in Oceania, the ISAO had a stupendous task of reaching out to these realities and networking with them, and it took up the mission in right earnest. ISAO took the initiative of organizing the First Asia-Oceania CCR Leaders' Conference in North Jakarta, Indonesia from 14 to 18 September, 2008 which was attended by 525 leaders from 21 countries. It was

indeed a time of new awakening for the Renewal in the region. We experienced tremendous fellowship and unity at the gathering. We as a body sensed the Lord telling us: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:18). Incidentally the ISAO Conference was held in the Krakatau Convention Hall in Mercure Hotel, North Jakarta, named after a volcanic island-mountain in Indonesia that ejected in August, 1883 approximately 21 cubic kms of rock, ash and pumice and generated the loudest sound historically reported. It was heard in Australia, Philippines and even Mauritius, more than 5000 kms away. A tsunami followed the explosion and its impact was felt all around. At the end of the Conference, we had several reasons to believe that it was a spiritual eruption, a tsunami that had greatly impacted the region leading to a New Springtime!

### The More Recent Happenings

Gulf was a region where the Renewal entities and groups never before came together even at the national level for a Conference. For the first time 1800 leaders from six Gulf countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—came together under the banner of Gulf Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (GCCRS) for a Conference in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December, 2008. "Let the fire fall again" was the theme of the First Gulf CCR Leaders' Conference. As a follow-up of the Conference, the Bishops of Abu Dhabi and Kuwait (the only two Episcopates in the Gulf Region) are doing everything possible to strengthen and consolidate the Renewal. The Bishop of Kuwait has officially recognized the Renewal by drawing up and giving the Kuwait National Service Team (KNST) a set of Statutes. The Bishop of Abu Dhabi is taking personal initiatives to appoint National Spiritual Directors in each of the Gulf countries in his Vicariate and set up National Service Committees to help foster the Renewal.

The International Leaders' Conference by ICCRS in June, 2009 was the first such Conference being held outside Italy, and the place chosen was Kkottongnae, South Korea in Asia. This was yet another opportunity for the leaders of the region to come together in large numbers to interact even more with the CCR at the international level. The ISAO is also planning four regional follow-up Conferences to be organized in a span of two years besides a Priests' Retreat and a Businessmen Retreat scheduled to be held in 2010. In all these, Michelle Moran has taken the lead and has been personally fostering the networking of the Renewal in the Region. In the recent times

"We experienced tremendous fellowship and unity at the gathering. We as a body sensed the Lord telling us: 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'"

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# ICCRS Formation School & Training Courses

by Jim Murphy

It was a particularly warm day in Rome when we gathered at St. Peter's. The crowds were huge, filling St. Peter's square and filling the streets all the way down to the Tiber River. It seemed as if the whole Church had gathered that day to join with Pope John Paul II on Pentecost. The year was 1998. This was the first gathering of the various Renewal movements throughout the Church, coming together to hear the wise counsel, and pastoral encouragement of our Beloved Shepherd.

Although the years had taken some of the Pope's strength and vitality, the passion for the gospel was unabated in the aging man. He spoke eloquently and convincingly of the new era of Christianity that lay ahead. He moved our hearts, as he always had. At one moment in his message, His Holiness urged the leadership of the Renewal movements to do all they could to bring the people within these various streams of Renewal to a greater "ecclesial maturity" for the sake of building up the Church.

This had not been the first time John Paul II had given this call. In earlier years, when the Pope had met with the leadership of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, he had urged us to ecclesial maturity in order that we might be full partners with him in crying out to the world "open the doors to the Redeemer!"

John Paul II saw the Charismatic Renewal as a force for good within the Church, and a key movement of evangelization for the world. He wanted us to be prepared, and competent in our mission of service. That is why he continually urged us to grow in "ecclesial maturity."

St. Paul, in essence was pleading for the same thing when he urged the early Christians to come to full maturity in Christ: *"And He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love."* Eph 4:11-16.

This Ecclesial maturity which John Paul so often urged (and which has often been echoed by Pope Benedict XVI) is not

just having "information" about the Church, but rather this "growing into the Church, into Christ" which Paul so beautifully illustrates. Like St. Paul, John Paul knew that the only way we could be an effective witness to the world, while at the same time enduring the assaults of the world, was to grow into this "ecclesial maturity." It is to this very end that ICCRS has established its programs of leadership formation. ICCRS offers the Leadership Formation Institute, a three week long program that is held in Rome. The Institute has brought students literally from around the world, and has been given very good reviews by those who attend. Vatican officials are delighted with the program and follow its development with great interest. The Institute offers teaching on theological issues as well as practical training for ministry. The program includes time for personal ministry, as well as developing fellowship with others attending the Institute.

One part of the program that is unique is the field trip component of the three weeks. ICCRS takes the students to Vatican offices for a chance to see the workings of the Church and actually meet with Vatican officials. In addition, ICCRS takes the students to various holy sites in the area for teaching, prayer, and reflection. People continually comment on the prayer service at the Coliseum, where students re-commit their lives to the service of the Gospel! It is a powerful moment, and really underscores what the Institute is all about—serving the Gospel, and the Church, at any price. The next Institute is scheduled for this September in Rome, and includes a host of international teachers.

The students who attended the first two Institutes often made the comment, "Please! You must bring this experience to my country!" ICCRS was not able to pack up the Coliseum or the Vatican, but a shorter program has been designed that is able to go around the world to help people with John Paul's vision of "ecclesial maturity." The Leadership Training Course is a week long training program that includes many of the same elements as the three week Institute, though not to the same scope or depth. It is a perfect way to begin this journey of ecclesial maturity in a local setting. So far, the Leadership Training Course has been given in South Korea and Botswana, with another scheduled for the United States in September of 2010.

The words of John Paul II still echo in the hearts of ICCRS. The leadership programs are one way we fulfill that mandate. Visit <http://www.iccrs.org> to find out how you can be a part of John Paul's vision. Join with ICCRS at the Leadership programs and journey with us on the path of ecclesial maturity. ☪

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The ICCRS Newsletter is the International Newsletter published bimonthly in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the world.

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### ICCRS Council Members

Mrs. Michelle Moran, *England (President)*  
Mr. Cyril John, *India (Vice President)*  
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Mrs. Ma Jose Cantos de Ortiz, *Chile*  
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Mr. Oreste Pesare, *Italy*

**ICCRS Advisors**  
Mr. Allan Panozza, *Australia*

**Administration and Events**  
Mr. Claude Lopez, *Australia*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**in English and Spanish**

## 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 Priests' Retreat

**in the village of Ars, France**

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

**Sep 27–Oct 03, 2009**



SPONSORED BY  
THE CONGREGATION FOR  
THE CLERGY

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**

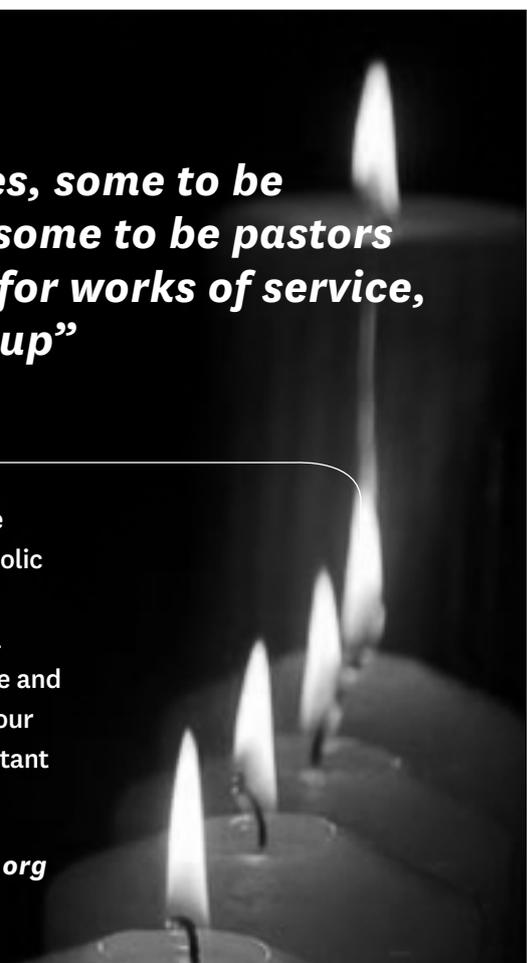
(Archbishop of Vienna)

***“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”***

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

From time to time, ICCRS seeks the help of those who are able to serve with their God-given talent and time to further the mission of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the very heart of the Church for a minimum of 1 to 2 years. Currently we are in need of individuals who have technical expertise in computer hardware, and a working knowledge of database and server systems. We also need graphic and web designers, to increase our accessibility on the web. As ICCRS is an international office, it is important to speak English in addition to being fluent in another language.

If interested, please send us your CV and a photo to [director@iccrs.org](mailto:director@iccrs.org)



# 2009 EVENT REFLECTION

## 2009 International ICCRS Event *Love in Action*



2009  
INTERNATIONAL  
ICCRS EVENT



Two and a half hours by bus from Seoul, South-Korea, Kkottongnae is a home where the sick, destitute and handicapped are taken in and cared for. From June 1–9, Kkottongnae was also the location of the 2009 International ICCRS Event “Love in Action.” And what better place? Kkottongnae in Korean means “field of flowers”, and for the volunteers and full-time workers, the flowers are the ones being cared for. For the 1,000 participants, who flew in from 43 different countries to attend the conference, it was a sincere opportunity to experience love in action.

For the first two days, early arrivals from outside of Korea had the opportunity to serve alongside the 200,00 Korean volunteers and 340 full-time workers, most of which are religious. On the third day, there was an official opening mass held in the evening which was presided over by one archbishop, three cardinals, ten bishops, and many priests. ICCRS President Michelle Moran lit a symbolic torch and

welcomed the participants to the conference, and the evening ended with much praise and worship.

Throughout the next few days, informative and inspirational talks were given by ICCRS Council Members as well as Fr. John Oh (founder of Kkottongnae), Fr. Thomas Oh, Fr. Robert Faricy, and Fr. John Mario Montoya, and Jim Murphy.

During the last two days, event participants visited various holy places of martyrdom, where the ICCRS Council prayed for healing and peace throughout the world.

The highlight of the Love in Action Event was an open air rally, where the participants of the conference were joined by over 50,000 Koreans who came to celebrate mass and worship together in harmony. The 2009 ICCRS Event “Love in Action” was a powerful demonstration of love.

*A transcript of talks and photos are soon to come on the ICCRS website at <http://www.iccrs.org>.*

*(continued from front page)*

*“Two thousand years of Christian tradition has been founded on the blood of many martyrs, who for the sake of their faith, laid down their lives.”*

she has undertaken a number of trips already to the Conferences and meetings held in the region to assure us her support and prayers. I am unwilling to dismiss all these things as a “matter of chance” or “accident”. Seeing from the eyes of faith, all these seem to me as part of the “new thing” that the Lord is doing in our midst.

### ***The growing persecution of the Church***

Two thousand years of Christian tradition has been founded on the blood of many martyrs, who for the sake of their faith, laid down their lives. Pope John Paul II speaks about it in his Apostolic Letter, Tertio Millennio Adveniente: “The Church of the first millennium was born of the blood of the martyrs... At the end of the second millennium, the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs.” The trend of persecution of believers in a number of countries in Asia-Oceania including Vietnam, China and India is a pointer to great and mighty things that are in the offing. St. Peter Chanel in Vanuatu in the Pacific, Blessed Nicolas Bunker Kitbamrung in Thailand, the 117 Saint Martyrs in Vietnam, Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan in Vietnam, St Andrew Kim Taegon with 102 other martyrs in South Korea, St. Paul Miki and 25 others who were crucified in Nagasaki, Japan, St. Lorenzo Ruiz, a Filipino who was martyred in Japan, etc. and many others who

shed their blood witnessing their faith are concrete examples of martyrdom. At the beginning of the First Christian Millennium, the Church historian Tertullian wrote: “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church”. Martyrdom is reproductive because the blood of martyrs nurture the faith. It is now time to reap the harvest of martyrdom.

### ***Conclusion***

Going by “the signs of the time”, one could sense Kairos dawning on the region at this time of history. The people of Asia-Oceania are thirsting for the living water that Jesus alone can give (cf Jn 7:37-39). The Charismatic Renewal started by the Holy Spirit in the Church is “*like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened*” (Lk 13:21). The Renewal in the region has a great challenge before it to cooperate with the mighty plan of God. When Jesus asked Simon to “*put out into the deep for a catch*” (Duc in altum) (Lk 5:4), Peter and his companions, who were professional fishermen and far more experienced than Jesus in the field, would have thought that the exercise would be a futile one. Nevertheless, they discarded their professionalism and obeyed the Lord’s command. They had a big catch! Kairos has begun. Let us shed our complacency and move our boats away from the shore for a big catch!