



International Catholic
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Services

Serving
the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Our call to intercession

by Cyril John

This Issue

Our call to intercession

Faith expressed
through love

Assisi 2010

ILTC 2010 – Steubenville

One day retreat for
Priests and Bishops

Leadership Formation

Intercession:
A call for the CCR

The Holy Spirit,
the giver of life

Mary and ecumenism

What is intercession?

According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, intercession is a “prayer or petition on behalf of another”. In petition God does something for us; in intercession God does something through us. Intercessory prayer is prayer for others. An intercessor is the one who takes the place of another or pleads another’s case. Another striking definition of intercession is: “Holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God’s intervention.” According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did. He is the one intercessor with the Father on behalf of all men, especially sinners” (No 2634).

Jesus: The Intercessor par excellence

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission” (Heb 5:7). Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before choosing His team of disciples. When Jesus forewarned Peter that Satan had sought permission to sift the disciples as wheat (Lk 22:31–32), He did not say, “I will stop Satan”. Instead Jesus said: “I have prayed for you”. He interceded even more fervently during His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Jn 17:9–26). Jesus’ ministry of intercession still continues at the right hand of God: According to St Paul: “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Rom 8:34). “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Heb 7:25).

Intercession in the Old Testament

Leaders in the Old Testament like Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Job and Amos were great intercessors. Speaking about Abraham, the Lord told Abimelech: “as a spokesman he will intercede for you” (Gen 20:7). It is because of his intercessory power (Gen 18:22–33) that Abraham deserved to be called a prophet (Gen 20:7). In fact, the prophets were men of prayer: Elijah (1 Kings 18:36), Samuel (Jer 15:1) and Amos (Amos 7:1–6). Jewish tradition remembers Jeremiah as a man who “prays much for the people and the holy city” (2 Mac 15:14). Intercession was considered to be an essential

function of the prophetic office. “If indeed they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, then let them intercede with the Lord of hosts...” (Jer 27:18). As the prophet is expected to be God’s spokesperson in the midst of the people, so is he to be the mediator of their needs before God. That is why Samuel felt that it was a sin not to pray for his people: “Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you” (1 Sam 12:23).

Intercession in the Pauline Ministry

St. Paul understood this responsibility perfectly well. Something that Paul did as an apostle and minister of the Word was to intercede for the people under his spiritual care. “And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant?” (2 Cor 11:28–29). There seems to have been a kind of ‘burden’ experienced by Paul on account of his ‘spiritual anxiety’ for the members of the churches he established.

St. Paul went to the extent of saying that he was in pain like a mother’s travail until the time Christ who was in them like an embryo was brought to birth. “My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...” (Gal 4:19). Such travail enabled him to intercede for them constantly: “Constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you” (Phil 1:4). It required prayer without ceasing: “For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...” (Col 1:9–10).

Our call

In *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope John Paul II emphasized the role of intercession in effective evangelisation: “Prayer should accompany the journey of missionaries so that the proclamation of the Word will be effective through God’s grace” (No 78). St. Paul exhorted us: to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes 5:17). “With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones” (Eph 6:18). Several people have testified about such a ‘burden’, a sense of urgency and conviction they experience to pray for the salvation of souls, restoration of unity to a

“Several people have testified about such a ‘burden’, a sense of urgency and conviction they experience to pray for the salvation of souls, restoration of unity to a group of divided people or to bring about revival in a particular place.”

(continued on Page 4)

Faith expressed through love

by Brother James Shin

The 2009 ICCRS event was held in Kkottongnae community, South Korea from the 2nd to 9th of June. It was a moving experience for all participants from 43 countries. This was the first time that the ICCRS Council organized an international leaders' conference outside of Europe, and it happened to be in Asia. There were a total of 1,046 participants including 735 Koreans. 2 Cardinals, 2 Archbishops and 10 Bishops were with them. After the main conference there was an Open Rally on 7th of June attended by 50,000 people.

When the chairman of the Korean NSC and I had a preparatory meeting with the President and Director of ICCRS in Rome, Michelle Moran, as President, proposed that the theme of the event be 'Love in Action' and said Kkottongnae was selected especially for the international conference because it is a wonderful example of a place where the abandoned are taken care of and where the fruit of the Holy Spirit is revealed in abundance. The theme was exactly compatible with the original intention of the former President of ICCRS, Allan Panozza who wanted to reveal love, the first fruit of Holy Spirit through this event because ICCRS had shown the charisms of praising, preaching and healing, but not the practice of love until now.

I suggested that they give participants the opportunity to engage in volunteer work for the 2,000 elderly, handicapped, homeless, sick people prior to the conference. It was a special moment of conversion. Through the experience of helping the poor and the abandoned, the participants were able to meet the Lord through their voluntary service, and this encounter made them more open to the Holy Spirit and led them closer to the Lord.

There is an "unbreakable bond between the love of God and the love of a neighbour. The commandment of love should be interpreted to mean that love of a neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God." (Pope Benedict XVI, *God is love*, № 16)

We celebrated a very special mass at Imjingak in the demilitarized zone with the intention of reconciliation and reunification between the South and North Korea.

At the conference, Cardinal Albert Vanhoye, S.J.

gave a talk about the theme of 'Love in Action'. Other speakers, Michelle Moran, Bp. Joe Grech, Cyril John, Jim Murphy, Fr. Robert Faricy, and Fr. Mario Montoya among others, gave us wonderful talks about the Holy Spirit and evangelization. In the afternoon session we had workshops divided into 3 groups: healing, intercession and charism.

After the conference, the participants joined in a pilgrimage to visit the many places that are sacred to Catholics in Korea. Korea has a very unique Church history in that Catholicism was first accepted and spread by lay people, and in less than 100 years, many of the Christians suffered terrible persecutions and martyrdom was common.

The Renewal in Korea had organized an intercessory prayer team over 4,000 people who had been praying for this conference for one year. The intercessory prayer was very important and fruitful. People truly experienced being part of the wider universal church being immersed in a totally different culture and in Korean Catholicism and the spirituality of martyrs. There were four groups involved in the organization: ICCRS, the National Service Committee, the Kkottongnae community, and the Steering committee. Although we had some difficulties in working in harmony at the beginning, we have finally accomplished unity in diversity because of intercession and the leadership of ICCRS and the Korean NSC. When we had the evaluation meeting of the event immediately after the conference, many leaders agreed that this style of event had been a turning point in the life of ICCRS and it had moved us to a new place.

Fr. John Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae, suggested that the CCR could help HIV/AIDS victims in the name of ICCRS as a result of the 2009 event 'Love in Action.' He promised to donate money for that purpose. Furthermore, if there are any institutions or communities helping HIV/AIDS patients in the poor countries, please contact the ICCRS office to inquire about obtaining financial support.

My appreciation goes out to all the Councillors of ICCRS and all NSC members of Korea, that their efforts and prayers brought us a meaningful event for the first time outside Europe. Praise the Lord! Saranghamnida (We offer our love to you)! 

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ASSISI 2010

Intercession Event: The Road to Pentecost

MAY 19–23

This international event, with a special focus on intercession, will be an opportunity to:

- Experience a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Celebrate the Pentecost Tridium and the Pentecost of the Nations with ICCRS in Assisi
- Deepen our understanding about the call to intercession
- Intercede for the nations in the power of the Holy Spirit

Event, food, and accomodation is €400

Optional one day pilgrimage in Assisi on May 24th is €100

The conference is limited to 400 participants so we recommend early registration.

For more information and registration, visit

<http://www.iccrs.org> or e-mail events@iccrs.org or call us at +39 06 6988 7126



ICCRS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

Franciscan University of Steubenville
Ohio USA

SEPTEMBER 12–18 —2010—

“Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others.”

Tim 2:1–2

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 programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.

One day retreat for Priests and Bishops, friends of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

ROME, JUNE 8TH 2010

Join ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity for a one day retreat held in Rome to coincide with the world-wide meeting of the Holy Father with priests (June 9–11, 2010) at the conclusion of the Year of the Priest.

Information will soon be available on our website at <http://www.iccrs.org> or contact the ICCRS Office by email at events@iccrs.org

“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

