

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Fanning the flame through Prophetic Action:

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen” *John 10:16*

■ Charles Whitehead

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In recent years, the general interest in ecumenism has lessened and I often hear it said today that other Christians just need to come back to the Catholic Church. But how does this attitude fit with the emphasis the Church is placing on Christian unity?

At the ICCRS Prophetic Consultation, it was clearly felt that practical work for unity was important for the worldwide CCR, and our commitment to this would be prophetic. “Evangelii Gaudium” confirmed our view, as in section 99 Pope Francis states: “I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another. We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port! Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all

We know that the fullness of Divine Revelation subsists in the Catholic Church (Dei Verbum), but that the Church is “irrevocably committed” to the “ecumenical venture” (Unitatis Redintegratio, Ut Unum Sint 3). In the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict asked us to study Vatican II and the Catechism, where we see that Unitatis Redintegratio “exhorts all the Catholic faithful to participate actively in the work of ecumenism”. When Pope John Paul II wrote his encyclical “Ut Unum Sint” he stated in section 4: “I carry out this duty with the profound conviction that I am obeying the Lord”. Echoing this in his first Papal speech, Pope Benedict XVI told us that every Christian must come before Christ “and render an account to Him of all we have done or have failed to

do to further the good of the full and visible unity of all his disciples”.

Then in section 818, the Catechism echoes Unitatis Redintegratio: “All who have been justified by faith in baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to

be called Christians and with good reason are accepted as brothers and sisters in the Lord by the Catholic Church”. So the baptised members of the other churches ARE in a clearly defined relationship with us. We are a FAMILY. The practical implications of this are laid out for us in YouCat section 131,



where we read: “Christian unity is the business of all Christians regardless of how young or old they are. Unity was one of Jesus most important concerns. Overcoming the scandal of separation requires the conversion of all concerned but also knowledge of one’s own faith convictions, dialogues with others, and especially prayer in common and collaboration among Christians in serving mankind.”

Ut Unum Sint reflects this and offers a practical way forward by calling us to:

- pray together (section 22)
- discuss and study together (section 28)
- engage in every form of practical co-operation at all levels: pastoral, cultural, social, and in witnessing to the Gospel message (section 40).

The Charismatic Renewal in particular has a special prophetic part to play in this, explained by Pope John Paul II in May 1981 at the 4th International CCR Leaders’ Conference: “By your experience of the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are also shared with our separated brothers and sisters, yours is the special joy of growing in a desire for the unity to which the Spirit guides us and in a commitment to the serious task of ecumenism”. In section 82 of Ut Unum Sint, he clearly told us “The Catholic Church must enter into a dialogue of conversion which constitutes the spiritual foundation of ecumenical dialogue. In this dialogue each individual must recognise his own faults, confess his sins and place himself in the hands of the One who is our Intercessor before the Father, Jesus Christ”. So our work for ecumenism will be personally challenging, but as was emphasised at the Prophetic Consultation, it is integral to being a Spirit-filled Catholic. We are called to fan the ecumenical flame through our prophetic actions. 🕯️



All who have been justified by faith in baptism are incorporated into Christ



Annual Financial Report 2013

■ Cyril John



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
 “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Ps 136:1). This is the thought that is uppermost in my mind as I look back to the year 2013 and all that the Lord has done for us. Above all the Lord blessed us with Pope Francis who is a staunch supporter of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. For ICCRS it has been a year of abundant blessings. We have been able to reach out to all corners of the world through various initiatives and also serve the worldwide Renewal in all of its various streams and expressions.

While thanking the Lord for all the blessings we continue to receive through ICCRS, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed generously to support the work of ICCRS. We also would like to acknowledge that your support did help ICCRS in a big way in carrying on its operations and fulfill the mandate given to it by the Magisterium of the Church.

We at ICCRS, consider it very important that we place a brief report about the financial position of ICCRS before you for information. The following are some highlights relating to the financial position of ICCRS in the year 2013:

Income

Our total income for the year, from January to December, 2013, was 181,000 Euros. It included 84,969 Euros received as donations from National Service Committees (NSCs). Donations from individuals, groups and communities amounted to 64,000 Euros whereas response to Hope Sack appeal was only 2,000 Euros. 17,000 Euros were received as sponsorship for ICCRS staff. The ICCRS newsletter generated revenue of 2,000 Euros and books and material brought in 10,000 Euros. The events organized by ICCRS including the Leadership Training Courses generated 28,000 Euros.

Expenses

On an average the annual expenses at ICCRS was approx

180,000 Euros per annum. We took stringent measures to control expenditure at ICCRS. As a result, it has been possible to keep the expenditure below the budgeted figures. For example, expenditure for staff salaries and benefits was 97,000 Euros as against 101,000 Euros provided for. Office expenditure, newsletter, outreach, etc are specific areas where further reduction in expenditure could be achieved. With our concerted efforts, despite the increase in costs, the total expenses for the year came to 208,000 Euros, which is 6,000 Euros less than what was budgeted.


Present Position

Presently ICCRS is left with funds to carry on its work only for a couple of months. In order to continue the service of ICCRS to the world-wide Renewal, we need generous and sacrificial offerings, support and prayers from every one of you - the Sub-Committees, NSCs, communities, groups and individual donors.

ICCRS needs your support

Through financial assistance, you have helped ICCRS to continue its important mission in the Church over the years. We appeal to you to continue to help us to bring to fulfillment some of the very important projects in hand, especially those linked to the Great Jubilee of the CCR in 2017. I exhort you to pledge us support in response to our Hope Sack Appeal. After introducing the facility for online payment, transmitting of funds to ICCRS has become hassle-free. You may please visit our website (www.iccrs.org) today itself and make a donation or pledge your support to the Hope Sack Appeal.

“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes 1:2-3). You would be delighted to know that at the ICCRS chapel we intercede and organize special Eucharistic celebration for the intentions of all our benefactors. May the Good Lord continue to bless you abundantly for your generosity! 🙏

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The Popes and the Renewal

■ **Maria José C. de Ortiz**



Since the beginning of the CCR the popes Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis have addressed what the CCR is, the importance of the CCR and what the CCR must do.

Regarding what the Renewal is, Paul VI said that it was “a ‘chance’ for the Church and for the world” (19 May 1975). For his part, John Paul II said that it was “a particular gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church” (14 March 1992). Meanwhile, Benedict XVI noted that it is “witness to the joy of faith in Christ” (26 May 2012). Francis, in an interview on 28 July 2013, noted that the Charismatic Renewal and all movements of the Church “are a grace of the Spirit,” and that the Renewal is “a service to the Church herself! It renews us.”

Regarding the importance of the Charismatic Renewal, John Paul II in numerous speeches highlighted the CCR’s importance to the mission of the Church. “I ask you, and all the members of the Charismatic Renewal, to continue to cry aloud to the world with me: Open the doors to the Redeemer!” (30 April 1984). In 1998 he said that the CCR “has helped many Christians to rediscover the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, in the life of the Church and in the world” (30 October 1998).

Benedict XVI, in turn, stressed the resurgence of charisms as it happened at Pentecost: “one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church” (31 October 2008). Pope Francis in the same interview on 28 July 2013 said, about the Renewal, that “this movement does

much good for the Church, overall”, after having seen “the good they were doing.”

Regarding what the CCR must do, John Paul II said to its members that they had to proclaim Christ to the world “rooted in the local Churches, in your dioceses and parishes” (30 April 1984). On another occasion, he urges the charismatics to grow in holiness: “In the final analysis, all your evangelizing activities tend to foster in the People of God constant growth in holiness” (14 March 2002). In 2004, John Paul II expressed to the Renewal what its mission is: “To witness to the ‘reasons of the Spirit’” (29 April) and later invites the whole Church to spread the spirituality of Pentecost. “I hope that the spirituality of Pentecost will spread in the Church as a renewed incentive to prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation” (29 May). Meanwhile, Benedict XVI made a special call to the CCR members “to bear a convinced, sincere and credible witness of faith, adhering strictly to the commitment to charity” (26 May 2012).

Finally, Pope Francis in his first papal Mass on 14 March 2013, saw in the three readings, “a common element: that of movement” - “journeying, building, professing”. Let the Church journey “in the presence of the Lord”, build “on the cornerstone that is the Lord himself”, and profess the faith in Jesus Christ because otherwise “we may become a charitable NGO, but not the Church, the bride of the Lord.”

In summary, the Popes have seen the CCR as a grace for the Church’s evangelising mission and ask the CCR to keep doing so with fervent zeal. 🙏

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org for more information about our events.



3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat

"Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation."

■ **Rome, Italy · 10 - 14 June 2015**

At this time of the Spirit in which the Church calls us to a New Evangelisation, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offers to the presbyters an opportunity to stir up the gift of God which is in them by the imposition of hands (cf. 2 Tim 1:6) by participating at the 3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat.

Organised by ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity, this spiritual retreat is open to all Catholic ordained ministers of the various languages, races and nations, to live a renewed Pentecost in the heart of the Church. The event will take place from 10 to 15 June 2015 in Rome (Italy) and its theme is “Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation.”

Programme:

- Wednesday, 10/June · "Gathered"
- Thursday, 11/June · "Reconciled"
- Friday, 12/June · "Transformed"
- Saturday, 13/June · "Empowered"
- Sunday, 14/June · "Sent... for a New Evangelisation"

The registration is open on our website.

For more information visit our website www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org. 🙏

National Conference of CCR Brazil

“Make My Joy Complete by being One” (Ph 2,2)

The XXXI National Conference of CCR Brazil, held in Aparecida, São Paulo, from July 17 to July 20, was a great gathering of the Charismatic Family in Brazil. The theme, which was taken from Philippians chapter 2 and which inspired the talks and the many moments of prayer and worship, proved to be a prophetic word to the Renewal in Brazil, as the conference brought together not only the leaders and the people of the Renewal from all over the country, but also the Catholic Fraternity, represented by its international president Mr. Gilberto Gomes Barbosa and the national president Aloizio Gomes Nóbrega, as well as founders and leaders of several New Communities. Among the speakers there were Archbishop Alberto Taveira of Pará, the episcopal advisor for CCR Brazil, Bishop José Ascona of Marajó, Fr Jonas Abib founder of Canção Nova and Reverend Mr. Larry Oney a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese Of New Orleans in the United States, the president of the Renewal in Brasil Ms Katia Roldi Zavaris, among others. 🏡

Mission in Mbarara Archdiocese - Uganda

Following the success of The Great Gathering of the CCR Family 2014 in Kampala, Uganda, all were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to go out and serve. As representatives of the CCR worldwide many felt compelled to offer what they could in service of their brothers and sisters in need. The mission week took place in Mbarara hosted by Fr Emmanuel Tusiime and the Yesu Ahuriire Community. Leaders from all over the world were given the opportunity to minister to the people of Mbarara and surrounding villages in many different capacities, from participating in a public rally with thousands of people to travelling out to the mountains to serve the poor and witness to the joy of the Gospel. A visit to Mwizi village gave people the opportunity to visit a project initiated by CCR Brazil to reach out to families needs through a child sponsorship programme. A highlight for many was a visit to Fr Bashabora's babies home for orphans, where there was the opportunity to assist in their work to care for and support children who had been neglected and deserted in their early years. Through the many experiences of mission and service, the CCR leaders came to a new realisation of unity and compassion and received the gift of joy in abundance from all they had the privilege to meet during this time. The first ICCRS Leaders conference in Africa was a great success which found its culmination in a fruitful mission week which through prayer, will inspire many more to follow the call of Pope Francis to unite as one body of Christ and contribute to the Church's missionary mandate to bring the joy of the Gospel to all ends of the earth. 🏡

ICCRS FORMATION

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.

**LFI • Rome, Italy**

■ 6 – 26 September 2015

■ Contact: ICCRS Formation → formation@iccrs.org

ICCRS offers its VI Leadership Formation Institute programme. Classes include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Mariology, Kerygma, CCR, Leadership and Ministry. Students will be offered practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of the ministry within CCR. In addition, the students will go on several field trips in the eternal city of Rome.


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The *ICCRS Newsletter* is an international publication released bimonthly in English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, German, Arabic and Romanian for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of CCR throughout the world, as well as the events organised by ICCRS.

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