

## **CATHOLIC BISHOPS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL**

A letter of recognition of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference reads...

"Catholic Charismatic renewal continues to make a significant contribution to the overall renewal of the Church, through its emphasis on God's love for us; on Jesus as Lord and Savior; on the Holy Spirit as Lord and Life giver; and on the importance of prayer (especially praise and thanksgiving); repentance and personal conversion. The whole church benefits by this.

It is to be expected that as people increase their appreciation of all these things, they will need a correspondingly better education in their faith. Their hunger for prayer, their frequent use of the Scriptures: their longing for signs of renewal and joy in the faith; their desire to see the gifts of the Holy Spirit exercised more abundantly in all their variety; are legitimate aspirations. But these aspirations need guidance and leadership in order to bear good fruit.

Sincere people can be led into error and disillusionment, and they can miss the real meaning of faith when they are exposed to a fundamentalist misuse of the scriptures for "answers"; misguided expectation; especially in regard to healings, etc.

Both the opportunities and the risks indicate the need for sound leadership. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference wishes to acknowledge the leadership so generously exercised by many Catholic lay people, religious and priests in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal over the last two decades. It especially acknowledges the role played by the National Service Committee which was set up in 1980. The bishops are grateful for the loyalty which the NSC has always shown towards those with pastoral responsibility in the Church.

For its part, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference acknowledges that the Holy Spirit is the sources of many different gifts and ministries which are all intended for the good of the whole body.

Accordingly, the NZCBC gratefully accepts the willingness of the National Service Committee to exercise a continuing role in helping to guide and lead the Catholic Charismatic Renewal by helping the bishops to:

- Discern the voice of the Holy Spirit
- Provide opportunities for sound teaching
- Provide personal counseling and guidance
- Preserve right order
- Marshall resources to these ends
- Liaise with inter-Church charismatic agencies

In the exercise of the expected to have proper regard for the particular responsibility of bishops as chief shepherds in their diocese, and for the ministry of priests who are ordained to preside over the unity of the parishes and Eucharistic gatherings. The National Service Committee is expected to communicate frequently with the bishops and with the priests of parishes where they exercise the functions listed above"

*Thomas Cardinal Williams DD, Archbishop of Wellington*

*Denis Browne DD, Bishop of Auckland*

*Edward Gaines DD, Bishop of Hamilton*

*Peter Cullinane DD, Bishop of Palmerston North*

*Basil Meeking DD, Bishop of Christchurch*

*Leonard Boyle DD, Bishop of Dunedin*

*Max Maria DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton*