



Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service

GLOSSARY

With the purpose of defining the terms we use on a regular basis; we have prepared the following Glossary.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in the Catholic Church in Pittsburg in 1967, when a group of students from a Catholic University received the baptism in the Holy Spirit experienced in Protestant churches since 1901.

This experience of a personal encounter with Jesus renewed their faith and their life, allowing them to receive the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit, leading them to conversion.

The experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was rapidly expanded to millions of people throughout the world, helped by the opening of the recent Second Vatican Council.

CURRENT OF GRACE

The Holy Father Francis has defined the Charismatic Renewal, as Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens did, as “a current of grace” composed of a diversity of realities or expressions (prayer groups, communities, ministries, associations, religious institutions, etc.) and it is called to enlighten the entire Church so all the baptized might be renewed in the Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a personal Pentecost, the bursting forth of the Holy Spirit in the life of a baptized person, who, thanks to the experience of the personal encounter with the living Jesus, is lead to conversion. All of this should be part of the normal life of every baptized person called to holiness. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal, as a current of grace, offers the baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

REALITIES OR EXPRESSIONS

The realities or expressions are born from the Holy Spirit, who calls people to this current of grace. The most common forms are prayer groups, communities, ministries, schools of evangelization, religious institutions, and all the realities the Holy Spirit might inspire.



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PRAYER GROUPS

Prayer groups are formed by people who periodically meet (in general, on a weekly basis) to pray together, listen to the Holy Spirit and receive his charisms. Some of these prayer groups can develop ministries or apostolates. They meet freely and there is generally no formal record of them. Prayer groups are the most widespread expression of CCR throughout the world. They can be considered the basic and common cell of all the forms of expression and realities of the CCR.

COMMUNITIES, COVENANT COMMUNITIES OR NEW COMMUNITIES

A community is a group of people that share fraternally the same charism and mission. To belong to it, the members make a formal commitment, generally called a “covenant”. They not only share the specific charism, but, in some cases, also live together. The commitment or the covenant can vary in duration and level of commitment. They often bring together different states of life: laity, consecrated people, priests, and deacons.

Some charismatic communities are born from prayer groups. Many communities are canonically recognized as associations of the faithful by bishops, Episcopal Conferences, or by the Holy See.

MINISTRIES

A ministry is a service related to a charism that is exercised for the good of the Church, either by a particular person or by a group of people who share the same charism.

SERVANTS

The Holy Father Francis, on various occasions, has said to the Charismatic Renewal that he prefers the word *servants*, to the word leaders:

«There is another point that is very important to clarify in this current of grace: those who lead. There is, my dear brothers and sisters, **a great temptation for leaders - I repeat, I prefer the term servants** – those who serve - and this temptation for the servants comes from the devil, the temptation of believing themselves to be indispensable, whatever the position.

(Speech to the RnS Association, St. Peter's Square, July 3rd, 2015)

Therefore, CHARIS is using the word *servants* and **not leaders** and encourages all in the Charismatic Renewal to do the same.

THE NAME CHARIS

CHARIS is the acronym of *Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service*, in English, which is CHARIS' official language. Therefore it should be written with capital letters.