



ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Identity of CCR:

Towards the CCR Golden Jubilee

■ Michelle Moran

IN THIS ISSUE

ICCRS Newsletter

Identity of CCR:

Towards the CCR Golden Jubilee

Michelle Moran

Papal address to new evangelisers

About ICCRS:

Youth Committee

Marcos Volcan

ICCRS Councillors' profiles:

Dn Christof Hemberger

ICCRS Leadership Bulletin

New Evangelisation:

A new call

Dariusz Jeziorny

Leadership:

Servant leadership

Jude Muscat

Questions to the ICCRS

Doctrinal Commission:

What should I do after receiving the baptism in the Spirit?



So let's put our focus upon being 'fire starters' by introducing as many new people as possible to new life and freedom in the power of the Holy Spirit.



In 2017 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of CCR. With this in mind ICCRS is encouraging each nation to journey in a special way towards the golden jubilee. At our last Council meeting we discerned three broad vision areas that we offer to the worldwide Renewal for consideration.

Fire Starters

Leviticus 25:8 reminds us that the jubilee is a sacred time, a time to "proclaim freedom", a time for cancelling debts and a time for rest from the usual activities in order to celebrate. Reflecting on what this could mean for Charismatic Renewal, the "proclamation of freedom" is surely for us the testimony that we can give to the freedom of the Spirit that all of us have received, through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We should therefore make this a priority as we approach the jubilee, and try to enable as many people as possible to experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Indeed, at this time there seems to be an even greater anointing upon the Life in the Spirit Seminars. John the Baptist prophesied that the one following him would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Lk 3:16; Matt 3:11). So let's put our focus upon being "fire starters", by introducing as many new people as possible to new life and freedom in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fan the Gift into a flame

In 2 Tim 1:6, Paul reminds Timothy to "fan into a flame the gift I gave you when I laid my hands on you". In the years leading up to the jubilee we too should continue to give priority to formation, enabling people to go deeper, and become more mature in the Spirit. We should also pay particular attention to growing in the gifts and charisms that the Lord has given us. These, need to be fanned into a flame as they are vital tools which build up the Body of Christ and equip us for mission.

In the Upper Room, the disciples were joined together in continuous prayer (Acts 1:14). Many people are sensing that in this season of the Spirit, intercession is the need of the hour. As we approach the jubilee, let's be steadfast in our prayer engaging in deep intercession which is, as the Catechism reminds us, "prayer that knows no boundaries" (CCC, 2647). There is also a prophetic call

to return to the heart of worship, because this is the place where we grow in intimacy with the

Lord, and learn to yield to him more completely. From this place of surrender, God's power working in us, "can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine" (Eph 3:21). One way of understanding the debt cancellation of the jubilee, is to see it as an invitation for us to work at forgiveness and reconciliation to be people who seek ways to foster and build unity. Our aim should be to present to the Lord, a jubilee gift of a CCR united in our diversity and where the only debt is that of "mutual love".

Spread the Fire

In 2004, Pope John Paul II asked CCR to spread in the Church the *spirituality of Pentecost* through a renewed thrust of prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. Perhaps now is a good time to reflect upon how faithful we have been to this call and what still needs to be done, in order to more strongly embody the spirituality of Pentecost, as we enter into the jubilee.

A vital component of the spirituality of Pentecost, is being equipped to move out in evangelisation through the power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, Pope Benedict XVI has referred to this, as promoting the *culture of Pentecost*. At WYD in Sydney 2008 he said; "being sealed with the Spirit means not being afraid to stand up for Christ, letting the truth of the Gospel permeate the way we see, think and act, as we work for the triumph of the civilization of love". We are therefore called to spread the fire of Pentecost. Just as the disciples went forth with conviction from the cenacle, we too have been empowered and given a mission.

The Holy Spirit makes all things new, and many of us in CCR have been engaging in various forms of *new evangelisation* for some time. So now, as the Church places a special emphasis upon this, we are in an ideal position to continue to take the lead and keep pushing forward in evangelisation which is new in its zeal, methods and expression. Recently, Archbishop Fisichella, the President of the Pontifical Council for promoting the New Evangelisation, recognised the significant contribution already made to new evangelisation by the ecclesial movements and new communities. He commented upon our joy and enthusiasm, and highlighted that "the Church needs to find a new language, a new lifestyle, one that is respectful but has a deeply rooted identity with evangelisers, who have a profound sense of belonging to the Church and the Christian community". In the light of this, we in CCR can reflect upon our fidelity and effectiveness, in spreading the fire of Pentecost and see what more needs to be done as we approach our jubilee. 🙏

A word from the Holy Father:

Papal address to new evangelisers

The Cross of the Renewal



The Cross of the Renewal has been adopted as the International symbol of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

It is our hope that all who have experienced the baptism in the Spirit will wear this symbol as a witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.



We offer different programmes for leaders and event organisers, in order to give many opportunities so as to reach as many interested people as possible.

Some of the products offered are the following:

- Crosses
- Label pins
- Pendants
- Rosaries
- Key chains
- Bookmarks
- Stoles for priests
- Stoles for deacons
- Chasubles
- And more...

For more information, please visit:

www.crossoftherenewal.com

We are glad to share with you an abridged version of the address Benedict XVI gave in Rome on October 15th to those attending the meeting hosted by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation:

“Dear Friends!

“I joyfully received the invitation from the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization to be with you today [...].

“You chose as the motto for your reflection today, the expression: ‘The Word of God increases and multiplies’. The Evangelist Luke uses this formula many times in the book of the Acts of the Apostles; in different situations, he affirms, in fact, that ‘the Word of God increased and multiplied’ (cf. Acts 6:7; 12:24). However for today’s theme you modified the tense of the two verbs to evidence a very important aspect of the faith: the conscious certainty that the Word of God is always alive, in all the moments of history, up to our days, because the Church actualizes it through her faithful transmission, the celebration of the sacraments and the witness of believers. [...]

“But what ground does the Word of God find? As then, also today it encounters closure and rejection, ways of thinking and living that are far from the search for God and truth. Contemporary man is often confused and unable to find answers to so many questions that unsettle his mind, in regard to the meaning of life and to the questions that dwell in the depth of his heart. [...]

“However, despite the condition of contemporary man, we can still affirm with certainty, as at the beginning of Christianity, that the Word of God continues growing and spreading.

Why? I would like to point out, at least, three reasons. The first is that the strength of the Word does not depend, in the first place, on our action, on our means, on our ‘doing’, but on God, who hides his power under the signs of weakness, who makes himself present in the light morning breeze

(cf. 1 Kings 19:12), who reveals himself on the wood of the Cross [...]. The second reason is that the seed of the Word, as the Gospel parable of the Sower narrates, falls also today on good soil that receives it and produces fruit (cf. Matthew 13:3-9). [...] The third reason is that the proclamation of the Gospel has effectively reached the ends of the earth; even in the midst of indifference, incomprehension and persecution, many continue, yet today, with courage, opening the heart and mind to receive the invitation of Christ to encounter him and become his disciples. [...]

“The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which I instituted last year, is a valuable instrument to identify the great questions that are moving in the various sectors of society and contemporary culture. It is called to offer a particular help to the Church in her mission and above all in those countries of ancient Christian, which seem to be indifferent if not hostile to the Word of God. Today’s world needs persons who proclaim and witness that Christ teaches us the art of living, the way to true happiness, because He himself is the Way of Life; people who look steadily, first of all, at Jesus, the Son of God: The word of the proclamation must be immersed in an intense relationship with Him, in an intense life of prayer. [...]

“Dear friends, to be evangelizers is not a privilege, but a commitment that comes from faith. To the question the Lord addresses to Christians: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ you answer with the same courage and the same trust as the Prophet: ‘Here I am! Send me’ (Isaiah 6:8). I ask you to let yourselves be permeated by the grace of God and that you correspond docilely to the action of the Spirit of the Risen One. [...]

Testimony of service

After the great experience of the Leadership Formation Institute organised by ICCRS from 4th to 24th September, 2011 in Rome, Nicole Marie Ciss, a participant from Senegal decided to donate her free time for two months of volunteering in the ICCRS Office. Here is her testimony:

“I thank the Lord for all its wonders, for each member of the ICCRS Staff was a blessing for me. I worked in the library dedicated to Brian Smith. I

had to order each book according to its content, which allowed me to discover the richness of the numerous books and teachings (audio and video) published by members of the Renewal. I also had the opportunity to dive back into the past international events organised by ICCRS. This brief consultation of these precious books inspires me to put in writing and share the great experiences of my Christian life. God bless ICCRS!”

Youth Committee

■ Marcos Volcan

ICCRS has the mandate to promote unity and help the CCR with all its different expressions of grace, in order to spread the culture of Pentecost worldwide. The Youth Committee, created in 2009, has the same task as that of ICCRS, but with its focus on youth of the Renewal. The Committee is still young and, therefore, still in the process of defining the steps that need to be taken regarding the work with youth. After its creation, its members gathered a number of times in order to organise some activities, and during those meetings, we have decided that one of the first challenges would be to promote communication among youth. We are giving priority to the creation of a communication net, where internet stands as an invaluable tool for interaction, sharing of experiences, formation and information.

We have created a website for youth, which can be accessed through ICCRS homepage. We are also organizing a World Youth Conference that will take place in Brazil from July 10th to 15th, 2012. This event will be a great opportunity for sharing experiences and it involves several activities planned by ICCRS in view of CCR's 50th anniversary in 2017.

ICCRS Youth Committee members are: Br James Shin from South Korea, Fr Emmanuel Tusiime from Uganda, Dn Christof Hemberger from Germany and myself, Marcos Volcan from Brazil. We ask you to keep us in your prayers and take the opportunity to invite young people and all those who are involved with the youth to accompany our work and to participate in the World Youth Conference in Brazil, in 2012. 🙏

ICCRS COUILLORS' PROFILE

Dn Christof Hemberger

Christof Hemberger lives with his family in Ravensburg, South Germany, where he and his wife Sabine belong to the local Immanuel community. Christof is a social-worker and permanent deacon. Born in 1974, Christof has been involved in CCR from his youth. In 1992 became a member of the diocesan CCR leadership team, and in 1997 of the leadership of the national CCR youth ministry in Germany. Christof has been working full-time for the CCR in Germany since 2000. From 2000 on he served as the chair person of the service committee for the national youth

ministry, which he established and lead until 2008. He is now responsible for the national staff and leadership training of the German CCR.

Christof is a well-known leader and speaker, teaching at regional, national and international conferences. Several articles by Christof have been published in journals and books in German speaking countries. In 2004 he became a member of the ESCI and in 2009 he joined the ICCRS Council, where he is responsible for Northern and Western Europe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



World Youth Meeting of CCR

"In Jesus all the nations will put their hope." (cf. Mt 12:21)

■ July 10 – 15, 2012

The World Youth Meeting of CCR is one of the activities promoted by ICCRS in preparation for the Golden Jubilee to be celebrated in the year 2017, but it also serves to introduce the Catholic Charismatic Renewal youth to the entire world. Taking place in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, from the 10th to the 15th of July, 2012, it will gather about five thousand young people from more than 100 different countries.

The programme is varied, including several meaningful activities for youth. Participants from abroad will be offered four optional missions as pre-conference activities and, during the event, will go on a walk to the National Park of Iguaçu.

Join now! Registration is available on-line www.mundial2012.rccbrasil.org.br.



The Joshua Camp

■ August 1 – 13, 2012

The world is coming to London... and needs to hear the Good News! Sion Community, "More than Gold", the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and RELaY, invite you to join in this great opportunity to evangelise, during the Olympic Games that will take place in London in August 2012.

Participants will stay in a huge camp close to the Olympic village and will get some formation and training in evangelisation, before we start spreading the Good News in all kinds of outreaches.

Application is only possible for people in groups between 5 to 15 persons. No individual applications are possible. For more information, visit www.thejoshuacamp.com.

Please, send us news from your group, community or NSC to newsletter@iccrs.org.

ICCRS President's ministry

The President of ICCRS, Michelle Moran, travels to many places in order to represent the worldwide CCR. This autumn has been a very busy and blessed time for her: in September she was in Puebla, Mexico for their annual National Meeting of Servants. The following month, at the request of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, Michelle was asked to contribute to a very important ecumenical gathering, the second Global Christian Forum, held in Manado, Indonesia in the company of Orthodox, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Anglicans, Protestants and Charismatics from 65 countries. Then, she, with Dariusz Jeziorny, Chairman of ESCI, were pleased to represent ICCRS at an event hosted by the new Pontifical Council for New Evangelisation. It was also a great joy for her to be with the CCR in Malta in October for their annual conference, and later, at the request of the Catholic Fraternity, Michelle spoke at their conference for communities in Brazil. During November she was in Rome, for another ecumenical initiative in which ICCRS is involved, together with some of the other ecclesial movements, Associations and Communities, it is "Together for Europe". And, finally, as a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, Michelle participated in the XXV Plenary Assembly in Vatican where the theme was: "The question of God today. Should we not start all over again from God?". 🏰

A fresh breeze of the Holy Spirit in Uganda

ICCRS Director's first visit to Uganda —wrote to us the NST— came with a fresh breeze of the Holy Spirit for the Renewal in the African country. The National Service Team had organised a National Leaders Conference from 13th to 16th October, 2011 with the theme: "Back to the Roots". Three hundred leaders of prayer groups, ministries, service teams and communities had been expected to attend but instead 500 leaders participated. Oreste Pesare also inaugurated the Committee charged with the responsibility of organising the first ever ICCRS worldwide event in Africa to be held in Uganda in July 2014. 🏰

2nd Gulf CCR Conference

About 2,750 members of the CCR in the Gulf countries assembled together in the Holy Family Cathedral in the heart of the Kuwait City from 6th to 8th November, 2011 for the 2nd Gulf CCR Conference under the banner: "Amen: One Abba, One Mission, One Empowerment, One Name". Six countries were represented at the Conference. About 300 people participated in the conference through live telecast. Cyril John, the ICCRS Vice President was one of the main speakers. 🏰

ICCRS FORMATION

Leadership Training Course



LTC Lomé, Togo

■ January 22 – 29, 2012

■ Jean-Christophe Sakiti → jsakiti@yahoo.fr

LTC Singapore

■ June 10 – 16, 2012

■ Jessica Francisco → gerard_jess@singnet.com.sg

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.

2 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 ones. People of all ages from the host country or nearby are invited to participate!



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