

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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MARCH – APRIL 2012

Identity of CCR:

Be faithful to your calling!

D. Christof Hemberger

Soon the CCR will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Such times are a good opportunity to look back. Usually at anniversaries, people ask themselves questions like “did I reach my goals?” and “what did I achieve?” What are the questions we shall ask as groups, communities and individuals that belong to the CCR all over the world?

I think it is good and wise to look at the beginning of the CCR and its roots: What is the nature, the identity of the CCR? I personally think this is one of the most important questions we can ask and we all should reflect on it. If we don't know our identity well, we do not live it as we should. If we do not live it, we are in danger of neglecting or losing it. God chose us and gave us a calling. If we do not live it, who will?

What is the identity of the CCR? What does the CCR have in common all over the world since the beginning?

A personal relationship with the living God

My life turned upside down when I experienced God in a personal way—many others have experienced the same! God is a personal God; He is interested in us and wants us to live in His fullness! It is His desire to lead and guide us in our daily life, as well as to help us understand our full calling in His Kingdom. It is essential we remind ourselves and our groups of this truth and the need to live it!

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the use of the charisms

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and CCR go together like a horse and carriage! The charisms always go along with the baptism in the Holy Spirit and therefore

are a fruit of our encounter with the living God. In some regions, we see people getting hesitant towards the charisms. I would like to encourage you to live a full life in the power of the Holy Spirit and to use the charisms wherever and whenever you can! God entrusted them to us to build His Kingdom and to reach out to His people! This is power evangelisation! We must

not keep them as a hidden treasure, but as well-used tools in our ministry and daily life!



Call to grow in holiness

As disciples of Christ we are called to grow in holiness—not through our own human deeds and strength but through power of the Holy Spirit. The results of this transformation are the signs of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Gal 5:22), a deeper love for the word of God and a deeper commitment to serve the Lord wherever He calls us, especially to serve Him in His Holy Church.

There is more...

There is much more! I could mention the areas of “praise and worship”; the fact that the CCR started to spread all over the globe by sharing the lived experiences with others (“mission”); the “ecumenical dimension” from the very beginning; the “special call for the young generation” (it started among students...). In every nation there may be even more stories that are part of our history and roots.

And now?

I would like to encourage you all—individuals, groups and communities—to reflect occasionally about our roots and our identity. Are we faithful to what the Lord has called us? Are we still discerning His mission or have we grown complacent? Do we pray regularly for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our groups? Do we teach about and use the charisms, or do we only know about them? Do we live according to the call God gave to the CCR, make a difference in our society, and renew the Church? We will shine like a city on a hill when we live according to our calling! Let us to focus again on what the Lord entrusted to us. If we don't, who will? 🙏

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As disciples of Christ we are called to grow in holiness —not through our own human deeds and strength but through power of the Holy Spirit.



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Praise the Lord for Africa:

Growth of the Renewal in Africa

■ Fr. Emmanuel Tusiime

The Cross of the Renewal

The words “Veni Creator Spiritus”, present in the Cross of the Renewal, express the fervent prayer of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit—a New Pentecost.



As an active member of the CCR, we ask you to prayerfully consider acquiring one or more of the products that have been customized with the symbol of the Cross of the Renewal and to encourage the members of your own prayer group or community to do likewise.

Here are four good reasons why you should be wearing or displaying this symbol:

1

You will be making a visible prayer that proclaims at all times: Veni Creator Spiritus!

2

You will be expressing that you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit

3

This will present you the opportunity to evangelise as you explain the parts of the cross.

4

You will fulfil your personal responsibility for the financial support of the CCR.



For more information, please visit:

www.crossoftherenewal.com

We give thanks and glory to God for the growth of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Africa. The CCR has helped many people in Africa to rediscover Jesus as Lord and Saviour. There has been growth in faith, love for the Word of God, love and service to the Church is evident. Prayer groups have increased, covenant communities have been born, vocations to priesthood and religious life have come up, while committed family life and service to the poor is a fruit of this new evangelisation.

The experience of the baptism in the Spirit in Africa spread to different African nations in the early 70's: Uganda (1973), Ghana (1970), Benin (1977), Nigeria (1971), Zimbabwe (1971), Togo (1974), Morocco (1975), Cameroon (1975), Congo RDC (1975), Egypt (1973); and in the early 80's: Ethiopia (1981), Tanzania (1981), Botswana (1986). CCR is incredibly present in Kenya, Namibia, Liberia, Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Angola, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa, Republic of Central Africa (RCA), Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Burundi, Rwanda, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea Conakry. However, some individuals might have experienced this grace before the years indicated, this is considered to be the beginning period of prayer groups.

As a result, the Word of God has been boldly proclaimed at conferences, seminars, public rallies, retreats, and workshops which has brought team spirit among people of different lifestyles and ethnic background. Thus the Scripture is fulfilled (John 17:21: “May they all be one just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me”). Many Christians

however, still need to be helped to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus and to know that He is the only way to salvation.

The covenant communities that have been born are doing great work in forming and training leaders and evangelisers. There are schools of evangelisation where formation takes between 3 to 4 months, 1 year or 3 years. This kind of formation has helped participants to discover their gifts, calling and vocations and has helped them to be committed in the service of God.

Thus ministries have been formed like children's ministry, the youth, prisons ministry, couples/Cana there are also specialised ministries such as caring for orphans and widows, HIV prevention and counselling. For instance in Uganda, Cana—a family life programme has helped in stabilising families, as well as helping couples formalise their marriages in Church.

Prayer groups have been formed ranking from parishes to schools, including higher institutions of learning as well as national major seminaries with a good number of the CCR members having attended life in the Spirit seminars. Students gather together for the National Inter Institutional Prayer Day organized by CCR. Many of the young people have found suitable vocations and have joined either family life or religious life.

CCR is a gift of God to the Church and amidst the struggles and challenges, groups have been established at different levels to coordinate the services. National Service Teams (NST's) coordinates national programmes in collaboration with Conferences of Bishops and AFSCI (African Subcommittee of ICCRS) is part of the growth of CCR in Africa. AFSCI coordinates both Francophone and Anglophone Africa CCR services to fulfil the vision of ICCRS. 🐘

ICCRS Payment Methods



We are happy to share with you that it is now possible to make payments and donations to ICCRS by Credit Card / PayPal.

With this simple and practical method you are able to:

Pay registration to the events.

Pay your subscription to the ICCRS Newsletter and the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin.

Buy online our publications and products.

Make donations too, offering a single donation or following the ICCRS Hope Sack Project.

It is the easier, faster and safer way to pay online. PayPal is everywhere and you can make the transaction wherever you are.

Remember that the other existing methods are still available, so you can also pay to ICCRS by bank transfer, by check or in cash.

Visit www.iccrs.org for further information.

About ICCRS:

Ad hoc group for the University of the Holy Spirit

■ Jude Muscat

In light of the mandate given to ICCRS by Blessed John Paul II to help people acquire a solid and profound Christian formation and ecclesial maturity, ICCRS has embarked on a number of projects in the area of formation. After the Leadership Formation Institutes (LFI) in Rome and the Leadership Training Courses (LTC) held in different locations around the world, ICCRS is compelled to embark on a third level of formation in pneumatology and baptism in the Holy Spirit. ICCRS feels the need to fill a shortcoming in this area of theology and it believes it has the mission to serve the whole Church by offering a course for a deeper theological and systematic reflection on the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in the light of the Holy Scriptures, the writings of the Church Fathers, the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council, and also in the teachings and life of the Church throughout the centuries. A committee was set up to examine the possibility of such a

project. The committee is to produce a feasibility study, prepare a structured and detailed curriculum, prepare a method of approach, and then present their recommendations to the ICCRS Council for a final decision. Although the committee discussed different possibilities for its designated title, for the moment we stuck to the name University of the Holy Spirit.

Currently, the committee is composed of Michelle Moran (President of ICCRS), Oreste Pesare (Director of ICCRS), Prof. Fr Alessandro Olivieri Pennesi and Jude Muscat.

Because the project is still in its infancy and was kicked into action by the possibility of acquiring a building to house such a project, its work has focused on the legal aspects of such an endeavour and the viability of managing and maintaining the building. We have established links and exchanged ideas with a number of Catholic universities in Rome that offered their support in the matter. 🍷

ICCRS COUNCILLORS' PROFILE

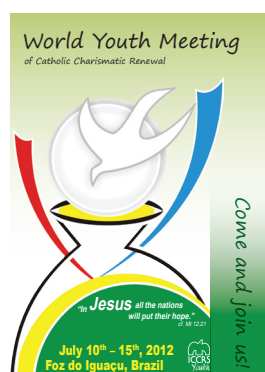
Julienne Mesedem

Julienne Mesedem was born on July 15th, 1948 in Baleng in Cameroon. Mother of one child, she is a consecrated lay person and a retired biologist. She has been a member of the CCR since 1982, and received the baptism in the Spirit in 1984. She has been President of the Cameroon National Council of the CCR from 1999 to 2006. She was elected a Member of the AFSCI for Francophone Central Africa in 2007. She was elected to the ICCRS Council

in April 2008. Leading retreats, and formation programmes in different dioceses; she is in charge of ministries such as singing, teaching and spiritual counselling. She is also a catechist, acolyte and member of the Ecumenical Movement of the diocese. She wrote *Mieux connaître le Renouveau Charismatique Catholique* (Knowing better the Catholic Charismatic Renewal), and founded the Fraternity of Friends of the Priesthood.

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.

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

Donate to ICCRS!

ICCRS is at the service of the Church and the CCR worldwide. It provides specific services to carry out its mission. Among others:

Ongoing dialogue with all the realities in the Church and also ecumenical dialogue with other denominations.

Publication of an international newsletter, books, booklets, CD's, DVD's. Also the promotion of the “Cross of the Renewal” as the international symbol of the CCR.

Formation through an international leadership bulletin, Lead-

ership Training Courses, Leadership Formation Institutes, retreats, special programmes and so on.

We invite you to support the development of these services offered by ICCRS with your prayers and financial contributions.

As an insert to the ICCRS Newsletter, there is an updated subscription form to this publication and an updated form to the ICCRS Hope Sack Project.

Visit the ‘Contribute’ page at www.iccrs.org for further information.



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

Changes at the ICCRS office

After about 11 years of faithful service at the ICCRS office, Amalia Quiroga went back to Argentina at the end of December 2011. Also, Paola Musci (Italy) finished her service at the office by the end of 2011. To both of them our immense gratitude and love. Please, pray with us that the Lord continue to guide their lives with the power of his Holy Spirit. 🏡

First CCR Leaders' Conference in Saudi Arabia

The 1st CCR Leaders' Conference was held in the Eastern Region in Saudi Arabia on February 9th and 10th, 2012 under the auspices of ICCRS. It was attended by 200 leaders of prayer groups across the country. It was for the first time that leaders of the Renewal came together for such a Conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The inaugural Eucharist at the Conference was presided by the Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia. The two day conference was led by Mr Cyril John, Vice-president of the ICCRS Council. One of the major decisions taken at the Conference was to network intercession for all in authority especially His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia and other civic authorities in the country. 🏡

CCR in Morocco

CCR is present in Morocco since 1974 and gathers people in around seven cities. Groups are made of about thirty members led by a team of 2 to 5 persons. All the teams constitute a Diocesan Core led by some priests. The leaders (about 100 anytime) have three meetings per year during which they set the programme and the topics for the local prayer meetings. A Life in the Spirit Seminar was organized this past year and they have now new people baptized in the Spirit. Christians in Morocco are mainly foreigners, in a more than 99% Muslim country. Last year CCR was blessed with two pastoral visits of the Archbishop of Rabat and hopefully a chaplain will be officially appointed to help the priests have provided alone this service for thirty-six years. Praise God for the spiritual fruits it has borne in Morocco! 🏡

Argentinian bishops recognise CCR as a “stream of grace”

In the Franciscan residence of San Antonio de Arredondo, Córdoba, from November 18th to 20th, was held the XXII National Meeting of Servants of CCR in Argentina. Attended by 400 leaders from all the country, it was preached by the Director of ICCRS, Oreste Pesare. It also had the presence, for the first time, of the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the Lay Apostolate of the Bishops' Conference, Fr. Marcelo Iglesias, who presented the “Basic Guidelines” recently approved. These guidelines recognise and define the CCR in Argentina as a “stream of grace”, which was received by those present with great enthusiasm and deep gratitude. 🏡

ICCRS FORMATION

Leadership Training Course



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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The ICCRS Newsletter is an international publication released bimonthly in English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and German 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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Begin or renew your subscription to the ICCRS Newsletter and the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin today!

You will receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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- María Eugenia F. de Góngora, Guatemala
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