

## Identity of CCR:

# Spreading the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

■ **María José C. de Ortiz**

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Why do we always speak of the baptism in the Spirit in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal? Because it is its core. The Holy Spirit produces the renewal. That is why CCR is also called Renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Our renewal is the one that the Church and the world goes through when they experience a new Pentecost. That is why Pope Paul VI stated that the great need of the Church was to have a “perennial Pentecost.” Pope John XXIII, in his prayer said, “Lord, give us a new Pentecost,” and John Paul II called for “a new Pentecost for the world.”

The essence of the messianic action of Jesus is to baptise in the Holy Spirit: “He who comes after me will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Mt 3:11); “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit” (Jn 1:33). It is the essential work of Christ, the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament when God “will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh” (Jl 2:28, Acts 2:17).

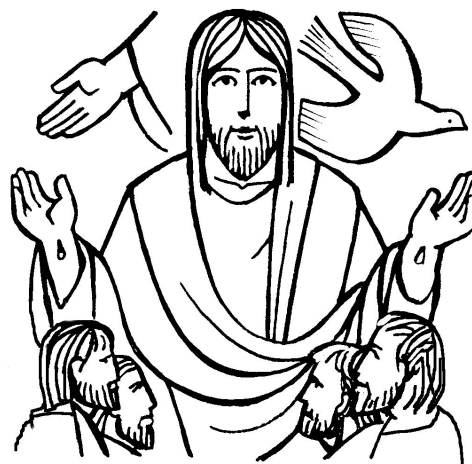
The Holy Spirit has given rise to the CCR to spread the experience of Pentecost in our time. We must tell lukewarm Catholics and all men and women in our society that Jesus is Lord, that He is risen, and He wants to renew mankind in the Holy Spirit.

To have the experience of the baptism in the Spirit is to live a Pentecost today (Acts 2:3,4). There are many who bear witness with their lives to having had a Pentecost today. The experiences and life transformations of all who have received the baptism in the Spirit—be they men, women or children, consecrated or lay—are similar to those of the apostles in the Upper Room. It is a unique grace that makes a person recognise the power and lordship of Christ. In that very moment

“the man recognises that he is nothing and God is everything” (Fr Cantalamessa).

Those who have experienced the baptism in the Spirit have been enthralled by God. Divine grace reveals how loving, wonderful, great and holy He is. God is much more of every-

thing than we have been told or have read about Him. God overwhelms the creature. He imparts, suddenly, as theology teaches us, that He is the



“wholly other.” Then, the habitual, spontaneous response of men and women of our time when God zaps them is the same as that of the disciples at Pentecost or Mary in the Magnificat. They burst into a torrent of praise, drunk on the Holy Spirit. Following the experience, no one is able to “not speak” of Jesus. He is alive! He is the Lord! The Holy Spirit shows us who Jesus is. He teaches us the work that He came to do and that He wants us to continue: to proclaim the Good News every day in every way to every one. He not only tells us what we should do, but He also opens the doors where He wants us to go.

On the mystery of Pentecost’s present reality, Pope Benedict XVI states, “The more we make ourselves available to God’s word, the more we find that the mystery of Pentecost is alive today in the Church. The Spirit of the Lord continues to pour out his gifts upon the Church for us to be credible proclaimers of the Word of salvation” (*Apostolic Exhortation “Verbum Domini,”* 123).

The baptism in the Spirit received by the apostles at Pentecost was the driving force of the evangelisation that has reached us. The baptism in the Spirit experienced by Christians today is what will render credible and convincing the proclamation of the Gospel in our time, giving life to the words of Jesus: “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!” (Lk 12:49).

CCR, do not stop! Promote, spread, and keep on asking God for a new Pentecost, a perennial baptism in the Spirit for the Church and for every creature (cf. Jl 3:1ff.). 🙏



**Those who have experienced the baptism in the Spirit have been enthralled by God.**



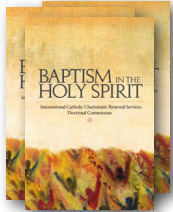
Report:

# ICCRS Council Meeting 2012

■ Oreste Pesare

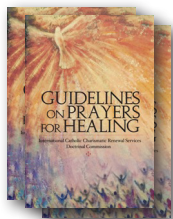
## New ICCRS Books!

We are delighted to present you the most recent ICCRS publications. They are important tools for a better understanding of CCR.



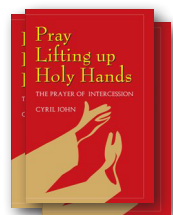
### *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

Author: ICCRS Doctrinal Commission  
Year: 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> edition)  
Pages: 116  
Language: English



### *Guidelines on Prayers for Healing*

Author: ICCRS Doctrinal Commission  
Year: 2012 (5<sup>th</sup> edition revised)  
Pages: 60  
Language: English



### *Pray Lifting up Holy Hands: The Prayer of Intercession*

Author: Cyril John  
Year: 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> edition)  
Pages: 146  
Language: English

These publications are currently being translated into various languages in different regions of the world.

Please visit

<http://iccrs.org/en/index.php/blog/category/productions> for more information on these and other ICCRS publications.

Under the leadership of our President, Michelle Moran, the ICCRS Council held the annual Council Meeting on 16-21 July 2012 in Foz do Iguaçu, following the first World Youth Meeting of the CCR organised in this wonderful region at the border between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

The Council began by reflecting on the event for youth which we had just finished, recognising the leading of the Lord in this direction of focussing upon raising up the next generations of leaders in CCR. So the decision was made to invite a small strategic group of young people representing each continent to the important upcoming Prophetic Consultation that ICCRS is organising in Israel in November 2013.

The meeting will be “by invitation only” to a number of Key leaders in the worldwide CCR.

Then the second World Youth Meeting will coincide with the international ICCRS event planned for July 2014 in Uganda (30 June - 5 July)

### Vision for CCR

Other important points reflected upon during the Council Meeting were the following:

- “CCR today: strengths, weaknesses and priorities”
- “ICCRS vision for CCR”

In this regard, the President underlined the importance that the “vision” of ICCRS for CCR be shared with all the Renewal worldwide, especially through the ICCRS Continental Sub-committees’ activities and the ministry of the Councillors.

### Towards the CCR Jubilee

We reviewed our progress regarding the journey towards the great CCR Jubilee in 2017, which ICCRS has been involved in since 2009. New steps have been made in this regard.

The events planned with this goal are:

- Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father and Pentecost Celebration • Rome (Italy) 17-19 May 2013.
- Prophetic Consultation • Israel 14-17 November 2013, “by invitation only,” including an enlarged ICCRS Council Meeting (18 November).
- Great Gathering of ICCRS Family • Uganda 30 June - 5 July.
- Worldwide Priests Retreat • Rome (Italy) May-June 2015.
- CCR Jubilee Celebration with the Holy Father • Rome (Italy) 2017.

### ICCRS Formation

An important part of ICCRS service is its

involvement and commitment to formation through the Leadership Formation Institute (LFI) and the Leadership Training Course (LTC). These are already established programmes in Rome and the various continents. Now new steps have been made also for an academic level of our formation in order to fulfil the prophetic desire to establish in Rome the CCR “University of the Holy Spirit.”

### Finances

Another important point in our meeting was the reviewing of ICCRS finances. We looked at various ways and new approaches to finance our service and mission. The Council worked on possible ways to increase our income both on a “short term” and a “longer term” basis. We recognised that depending almost totally on donations merely from NSCs and individuals and with some income from ICCRS events, we need to establish some more stable income in order to guarantee ICCRS worldwide projects as well as sustaining the ordinary service of the office. I personally hope that many of the readers of our *Newsletter* could increase their gift in order to develop our mission.

### Elections

Elections are one of the routine aspects of ICCRS life. This is the place where terms of office are renewed or new members chosen for the Council (in accordance with the ICCRS Statutes approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity in 1993, amended in 2005).

On this occasion, the following persons have been elected for a second term of three years:

- Christof Hemberger for North West Europe.
- Julienne Mesedem for French Speaking Africa.
- Maria José Cantos for Spanish South America.

Have been re-elected for a third term of three years:

- Cyril John for Near East, Middle and South Asia and also as Vice-president.
- Fr Emmanuel Tusiime for English Speaking Africa.

A new Councillor has been elected for his first term:

- Fr Wojciech Nowacki for Eastern-Central Europe.

We ask you to join us in prayer for each of them and for their service in their areas.

### Intercession Ministry

As fruit of a long commitment of ICCRS to the ministry of intercession, the Council decided to start an ICCRS worldwide Catholic Charismatic



# Finance Committee

■ Cyril John

## The nature of the Finance Committee

As listed in Article 24 of the ICCRS Statutes, there are various committees and sub-committees that function within the ICCRS. The Finance Committee is a very important Committee that oversees all financial matters of the ICCRS Council. The Committee consists of Mr Cyril John (India), as its Chairman, and Michelle Moran (England), Bob Canton (USA) and Mr Oreste Pesare (Italy), as its members. The Committee holds consultations during the Council meetings and during intervening period through skype, telephone and internet on a regular basis.

## The Mission of the Committee

The ICCRS office situated in the Vatican is the nodal office that supports the mission of ICCRS. Its world-wide mission is carried on with the financial support received from the National Service Committees/Teams, individuals, groups and communities.

The primary task of the Finance Committee is to finalise the annual budget, do financial planning, mobilise financial support, carry out financial analysis and review the position of funds based on financial statements received from the ICCRS office each month. The Committee also suggests ways and means to

check expenditure and for healthy management of funds.

The Finance Committee presents an annual statement of accounts to the ICCRS Council which is reviewed in-depth at each Council meeting. The Chairman of the Committee has also been publishing an Annual Financial Report in the *ICCRS Newsletter* in order to ensure transparency and accountability in financial matters of ICCRS.

## Some initiatives of the Committee

The basic source of funds for the mission of ICCRS is the contributions received from the National Service Committees/Teams. There have also been generous individuals, communities and groups that have been supporting the mission of ICCRS through their contributions. With a view to mobilise ongoing support for the operations of ICCRS, a Hope Sack Project for committing financial support has been launched by the ICCRS office. In addition to this special appeals are sent out to members of the Renewal world-wide and also published in the *ICCRS Newsletter* in times of need. Your contributions could now be transmitted electronically by visiting our website: [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org). We, in the ICCRS, look forward to your prayers and financial support to carry on the mission entrusted to us! 🙏

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org) for more information about our events.



## Pentecost 2013 in Rome

■ 18 May 2013

In response to the invitation of the Holy Father Benedict XVI to the movements for Pentecost vigil in 2013, ICCRS is happy to announce that a programme has been planned around the meeting with the Pope. All those in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal who will come to Rome for the official event, from all over the world, are invited to take part in this meeting. The proposed plan includes:

- Friday evening, 17 May: Prayer meeting in a central Church in Rome.
- Saturday, 18 May: Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father.
- Sunday afternoon, 19 May: Pentecost of the Nations Celebration.

More information will be published in the next issues of the *ICCRS Newsletter* and on the website. Please follow the updates at [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) to know the details about this “Pentecost of the Nations” celebration in Rome 2013.

## Report: ICCRS Council Meeting (continued)

Intercession Ministry Network throughout the world to support the Church, the CCR and the mission of ICCRS.

So, an *ad hoc* Sub-committee has been established at this purpose, formed by the Councillors: Cyril John (Chair), Maria José C. de Ortiz, Jude Muscat and Denise Bergeron.

## Doctrinal Commission

After reporting about the good work done by the Commission in finalising the publication of the new ICCRS document entitled *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* and the updated version of the document entitled *Guidelines on Prayers for Healing*, the Council has decided to continue to support and implement the work

in this area, especially adding new members in the Doctrinal Commission and organising more colloquia on specific topics related to the Charismatic Renewal experience in the Catholic Church. We agreed the next topic for the Doctrinal Commission to start working on is the area of Deliverance Ministry.

## Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held in Bethlehem, Israel on 19-22 November 2013.

May the Lord be praised for his faithfulness and for all gift granted to ICCRS for the good of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. 🙏

Please send us news from your group, community or NSC to [newsletter@iccrs.org](mailto:newsletter@iccrs.org).

## Charismatics in Poland celebrate together in the power of the Holy Spirit

The 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Polish Catholic Charismatic Renewal took place traditionally in Czestochowa at the third weekend of May (18-19 May 2012). The meeting consisted as usual of two parts. The leaders gathered together on May 18—about 2000 participants were present. The second day was open for everybody and about 140.000 came to pray together. Evangelisation was the main topic of the conference. There was no foreign speaker this year and some Polish leaders ministered, f.i. Fr Tadeusz Skrzypczyk, Urszula Nowacka, Fr Andrzej Grefkowicz, Dariusz Jeziorny and Fr Remigiusz Reclaw SJ. The open day culminated with the prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Many people present at the meeting place worshiped the Lord in tongues. The Spirit of joyful prayer visited people who were gathered at Jasna Gora. For about 1/3 of them it was the first charismatic experience in their life. 🏡

## An Australian initiative from and for the youth: Gen C

*Chosen Generation* (or *Gen C*) is a programme written for Young Catholics over 18 who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit and are hungry for more in their walk with God. Gen C is about equipping young people with practical knowledge and tools to raise a chosen generation of Christian leaders to be a blazing light in our world. The programme has been written by Sarah Dodds, the Youth Representative on the Australian NSC and former participant of the ICCRS Leadership Formation Institute.

The first part of the programme ran over nine Saturdays between 14 April and 9 June in Sydney, covering the main topics in CCR and including practical workshops and a retreat day. The vision of Gen C is not about forming a new youth group but forming young people with the hope that they continue to serve in their communities. 🏡

## “Free time with Jesus” during summer in Austria

500 participants enjoyed a blessed, deep and refreshing week from 18-25 August 2012 in Schladming, Austria. The main talks were given by inspiring leaders like Johannes Hartl and Astrid Eichler (both from Germany), Johannes Fichtenbauer (Austria) and Benjamin Berger (Israel). The event was a good mixture of teachings, workshops, worship and prayer, daily masses and time for recreation in the marvellous mountain-area of Austria. 🏡

### ICCRS FORMATION

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [formation@iccrs.org](mailto:formation@iccrs.org) for more information about our formation programmes.



## V LFI • Rome, Italy

■ 8 – 28 September 2013

ICCRS will be offering its V Leadership Formation Institute programme. It is a three-week intensive course in the heart of the Church in Rome, Italy.

Classes will include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Mariology, Kerygma, CCR, Leadership and Ministry. Students will be offered practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of ministry within the CCR. In addition, the students will go on several field trips to Christian sites and dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

People of all ages delegates from charismatic organizations worldwide are invited to have a growth experience in leadership within the CCR. The school will be held primarily in English, but other languages will be made available depending on the number of requests.

### **ICCRS** International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

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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