

Identity of CCR:

## The Holy Spirit brings our faith to life

■ María José C. de Ortiz



Faith, hope and charity are theological virtues “infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children... They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being.” (CCC № 1813) Faith is, therefore, a gift. It is a work of the Holy Spirit in us if we open ourselves to His grace.

Faith, which is the assurance of “the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of realities that are unseen” (Heb 11:1), is necessary for salvation: “Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mk 16:16). In addition, Paul tells us that “anyone who is upright through faith will live” (Rom 1:17) and the Church’s Magisterium says, “faith is the beginning of human salvation, the foundation and root of all justification” (Council of Trent, c. VIII).

However, we can see in present-day man a cooling down of faith, a distancing from God and His love. This is evident in the prevailing greed and in the organisation of many societies. Their parliaments pass laws contrary to what God asks of us in Scripture. One example is the legalisation of abortion. The Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI in his Apostolic Letter *Porta fidei* is crucial in our time.

Today as in the past, Paul’s words resonate strongly in all of us in the Church: Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! (cf. 1 Cor 9:16) “But it is in that way faith comes, from hearing, and that means hearing the word of Christ.” (Rom 10:17) By faith, we believe and joyfully receive Christ and his Good News. We announce Him without fear because faith is to believe with the heart and to declare with the lips (cf. Rom 10:10).

We come to faith through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit acting in and through us. He operates in us by immersing us in Him, baptising us with fire, sanctifying us, and letting


us know that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He is alive. He tells us that God is love and that He loves



us. The Holy Spirit works in us by revealing the Scriptures (cf. Jn 14:26, Jn 16:13). He works in us through prayer, interceding for us in accordance with God’s will (cf. Rom 8:26–27). He acts in us in the Eucharist, which makes present the body and blood of Christ. He reassures us that the host is truly the Lord’s body.

The Holy Spirit works through us by making us ambassadors of Christ and proclaiming his Word to all the nations (cf. Acts 1:8). Like the apostles after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit continues to compel the disciples of Christ to declare that Jesus is Lord! (cf. 1 Cor 12:3) Jesus is risen and is alive! He gives us an abundant life (cf. Jn 10:10) that the world, far from God, does not know. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it” (CCC № 1816). Moreover, He makes us realise that in Jesus is life itself.

Faith opens us to all the riches of God. It is the salt that gives flavour to life. “Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.” (*Porta fidei*).

Jesus brought salvation—abundant, eternal life—to every person who gives his life back to God and accepts to be born from above (cf. Jn 3:3). This comes to pass when we believe in response to the grace of faith planted and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. 

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**Faith opens us to all the riches of God. It is the salt that gives flavour to life.**



The Synod:

# The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith

■ Ralph Martin



In 1983, Pope John Paul II began to refer to a “new evangelisation.” Since then, there has been a growing focus on the need for a “new evangelisation.” Benedict XVI underlined this need by establishing the first new Vatican department in many years, the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation, and then calling for the world Synod of Bishops to focus on the new evangelisation. Two hundred and sixty two Synod Fathers, 44 experts (I was one of these), and 49 observers gathered for three weeks to share observations on the state of the Church all over the world and to suggest ways in which a new evangelisation could contribute to the strengthening of the Church in light of the challenges it is facing.

## Evangelisation and New Evangelisation

Since Vatican II, documents on evangelisation have been remarkably consistent in insisting on the priority of direct proclamation with a view toward conversion. Paul VI made this point strongly in *Evangelii nuntiandi*: “Evangelisation will also always contain—as the foundation, centre, and at the same time, summit of its dynamism—a clear proclamation that, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all men, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy” (27).

On new evangelisation, John Paul II made it clear that he wasn’t calling for a new gospel, but for a new effort, characterised by new “ardour,

methods, and expression,”<sup>1</sup> and directed in a new way, not only to those who have never heard the gospel before, but also to the lukewarm and de-Christianised traditionally Christian Western nations. The new evangelisation is new in to whom it is addressed and in who does it—every baptised Catholic. Even if a layperson’s primary field of mission is in the political, economic or social sphere or in doing works of charity, he or she continues to have an obligation to directly proclaim Christ by word, with a view towards leading others to conversion or deeper faith.

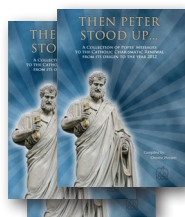
## Wake-up call

The Catholic Church is experiencing the collapse of Christian society as a “wake-up call” to the need for a renewal of fervour, both for holiness and for evangelisation, rooted in the continuing reality of Pentecost. I think the most significant good that will come out of the Synod for many years to come is that the whole Church will commit herself to an emphasis on a new evangelisation, which, she hopes, will bring many people back to the Church and many souls to Christ. For this to happen, a “new Pentecost” is needed, appropriated on a personal level. Even for those whom people consider “devout” Catholics, a real conversion is needed. They must not just see themselves as concerned with their own holiness and works of Christian service. They must be consumed with a passion to share Christ with others. ☮

<sup>1</sup>John Paul II, “The Task of the Latin American Bishop,” *Origins* 12 (24 March 1983): 659-62

## New edition of *Then Peter stood up...*

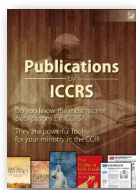
Introducing this second edition of the book *Then Peter stood up...* we are so grateful to the Lord for the large distribution it has already had, by being translated into eight languages—including Chinese—and distributed all over the world.



*Then Peter stood up...*  
A collection of the Pope’s  
messages to the CCR from  
its origin to the year 2012

Compiler: Oreste Pesare  
Year: 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
Pages: 204  
Language: English

This updated version “in English” includes the Pope’s messages and documents to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) up to today. The photo collection includes new pictures testifying to the deep relationship between the present Pope and the CCR. Also, a new layout and cover make the book more attractive.



Please visit  
<http://iccrs.org/en/index.php/blog/category/productions>

to download a catalogue with more information on this and other recent ICCRS publications.

# ICCRS and the Social Networks!

ICCRS is now able to extend its service of communication with the worldwide CCR and the whole Church through the social networks.

Encouraged by the message of the Holy Father for the 47<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day focused on the new “agora”, we have launched a Profile on Facebook and Twitter as a means to publish recent information on the most recent and important news

and happenings of ICCRS.

We will work soon on an account on Google+, so please support us with your spiritual and financial contribution in support of ICCRS.

We also invite you to spread the news in your group, community and NSC about these ICCRS tools, and we encourage the various Charismatic realities to publicise these profiles on their media.



Follow us by clicking “Like” on:  
**facebook.com/iccrsoffice**



Follow us by clicking “Follow” on:  
**twitter.com/iccrsoffice**

## Our Space on the Net

The CCR, as a stream of grace, is called to fulfil the vocation proper to the Church: to evangelise. Evangelisation, which is both personal and collective, needs to be extended to all areas of life. One key area is communication. ICCRS takes on the mission to evangelise with “those media which [...] can, of their very nature, reach and influence, not only individuals, but the very masses and the whole of human society” (*Inter mirifica* 1). One of them is its website (**[www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)**), which is essential to help fulfil what is described in the Statutes of ICCRS (cf. art. 9) in the context of the digital age.

The ICCRS website is:

- Informative: on it, you can find specific information on the RCC and ICCRS, such as their international events and services offered. There, we also publish the latest important news. Visitors can download the *ICCRS Newsletter* free of charge.
- Formative: the Formation Project and training resources are

educational content.

- Interactive: through the website it is possible to contact ICCRS, subscribe to publications, register for events, make prayer requests, make donations and buy ICCRS products.

Other sections, such as ICCRS Youth, ICCRS.tv, and ICCRS Library, are still being developed, so we count on your spiritual and financial support to bring them up in favour to the CCR worldwide.

Following the voice of the Holy Father, who states that “the new communications technologies must be placed at the service of the integral good of the individual and of the whole of humanity” (papal message for the 45<sup>th</sup> WCD), we invite all brothers and sisters in the charismatic current to use and promote the new digital tools we are offered and converge towards the ones of ICCRS to fulfil, with unity in diversity, the call to the new evangelisation. 🏡

### ICCRS COUNCILLORS' PROFILES

## Denise Bergeron



Denise Bergeron has been a member of the Covenant Centre of Prayer since 1976. When she was about 17, after living a powerful personal experience of the living Lord while at a prayer group, she felt the desire to follow Jesus and His Church more fully. This marvellous experience of the baptism in the Spirit moved her deeply and gave her a new dynamism. After several weekends of renewal and a short stay at the Covenant Centre of Prayer (Centre de prière l'Alliance) in Trois-Rivières, this call became more pressing. After a three-year formation, she committed herself to the Lord in this Community.

Denise was a member of the Association of Delegates of the Charismatic Renewal for more than ten years and has been a member of the Canadian Council of the CR for several years. She evangelises through teaching and training to the charismatic life (Life in the Spirit Seminars), as well as animating groups. She also participates in the organisation of conferences. She is particularly involved in the ministry of inner healing through sessions of Christotherapy conducted at the Covenant Centre of Prayer. Her experience at the Covenant led her to give sessions in Canada, Boston, New York, Guadeloupe, Martinique and France. 🏡

### 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

One of the great events in the Year of Faith with Benedict XVI is the Day for the Movements, the Associations and the Lay Associations which will take place in 18-19 May 2013 at St Peter's Square, Rome (Italy). In response to that, ICCRS has a programme around the meeting with the Holy Father. We invite all those in the CCR who will come to Rome for the official event, from all over the world, 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 March. Follow the updates at **[www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)**.

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

## ECCLA 2012 in Paraguay

The XXV Latin American Catholic Charismatic Meeting (ECCLA in Spanish) took place from 13 to 20 October 2012 in Asunción, Paraguay. It was attended by more than 800 people from 22 countries. They experienced the new Pentecost in the Upper Room in the fire of the Holy Spirit. The inspired preaching, worship songs, and fervent charismatic prayer around Jesus' Eucharist and the love of Mary, produced a dramatic growth in brotherly love. Those blessed days led to major agreements, which will undoubtedly be of great benefit to the commemoration of 50 years of the CCR in the world. The Lord, who always gives more than we expect, also allowed attendees to have important signs, like the relics of Blessed Elena Guerra. She was a forerunner of this new Pentecost. Organisers took from one of her letters the motto of the meeting: "We need to go back to the Spirit so He comes back to us." Participants were built up by recalling during the event the life of a true faithful servant, Fr Emiliano Tardiff. The stole used by him the day he was called by our Lord to the New Jerusalem was exhibited. Attendees could only exclaim: thank you, Lord, for such wonders! 🙏

## Leaders from different national charismatic realities gather together in the US

A Gathering of National Leadership Groups in the United States was held on 14-16 January 2013 in Manresa Retreat House in Miami (Florida). A total of 40 leaders representing the National Leadership Groups of the CCR attended the event. The Leadership Groups are composed of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities, Association of Diocesan Liaisons to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano, Le Conseil du Renouveau Charismatique Catholique des Haïtiens d'Outre-Mer, and the National Service Committee. One of the topics discussed during the meeting was the five-year preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017, in union with the plan of ICCRS. A proposal was also made in fostering the Baptism in the Holy Spirit through a Covenant of Understanding, which was tabled for further discussions among the groups. 🙏

### 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

*What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

Ps 78:3-4

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 organisations 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.

Permission is granted to reprint an article from the ICCRS Newsletter as long as ICCRS is quoted as the source.

The ICCRS Newsletter is free to receive by e-mail, and costs € 10 per year to receive by post. In addition, the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin is available for a subscription of € 15 per year by e-mail.

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