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The Holy Spirit infuses in us a loving trust in God's Word

Dariusz Jeziorny

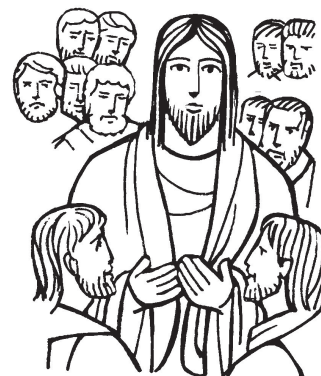


The Bible is the Word of God, which means men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote it. That is one reason why it was rediscovered by Catholics in the Charismatic Renewal when it appeared in the Roman Catholic Church. The movement started by the Holy Spirit was being drawn into the written richness inspired by the same Holy Spirit. This became one of the most important fruit of the Renewal in the Spirit. Of course, the Church had never forgotten the Bible but ordinary people had rather rare contact with it in their lives of faith. Once the Charismatic Renewal was born, many lay persons were amazed by the depth and power of the Word of God. Now, after 45 years of its existence, I sadly observe that people in charismatic groups have become lukewarm towards the bible. I notice they do not even take their Bibles to their weekly prayer meetings. There is some strange contradiction between this lukewarmness and the will to follow Jesus in everyday life.

There are many ways we, as charismatics, can use the Bible. I would like to emphasise three of them:

1. The Word of God gives knowledge in what we believe and why. Knowing the Word of God means I can defend my faith in front of people who disbelieve or even attack me. I can say from my experience that there is no better way to test our level of Bible knowledge than to have an appointment with Jehovah's Witnesses. There is no doubt their interpretation of the Word of God is far from the truth. However, there is also no doubt that few Catholics (even charismatic Catholics) are able to prove their error during conversation with them.

The Bible also gives a justification for the Charismatic Renewal. I remember my first steps in my prayer group in the second half of the 1980s, when we still lived under the Communist regime. There were few books on the Charismatic Renewal printed in our country. However, it was fortunate that Fr Francis Sullivan's book on charisms and the Charismatic Renewal was available. As I read it, I checked with my Bible and was convinced that something that attracted me strongly was really from the Lord. That was the way the Holy Spirit showed me to go deeper and deeper in Catholic Charismatic Renewal.



2. The Word of God allows us to get to know Jesus better. I mean Jesus who is a resurrected person, who is "the image of the unseen God" (Col 1,15) and who takes care of me. If we go deeper and deeper in our prayer, we can have a real experience of this exceptional person. It is much more than theoretical knowledge—it is a very strong spiritual experience. St Ignatius, a master of spiritual life, encourages us to "ask for what I want." In the second week of his Spiritual Exercises he says, "ask for interior knowledge of the Lord, Who for me has become man, that I may more love and follow Him." He then proposes to contemplate scenes from Jesus' life where we can involve our imagination and take part in these scenes paying attention to their sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings. Afterwards, St. Ignatius advises to "reflect to draw some profit from each of these things." There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is the only one who can make such a deep prayer possible.

3. Many members of the Charismatic Renewal who are full of zeal to follow Jesus in everyday life ask the Lord, "what am I to do?" God gives answers through the Word of God. There are, of course, various ways in which the Lord communicates with people. For many years, I was reading the Word from the daily liturgy to know what the Church is saying to Catholics. It was also the way of God's conversation with me. I was amazed to find the answers in the Word of God I was reading in the morning to questions I heard or dilemmas I was facing during the day. It was possible only through the action of the Holy Spirit to be so wise in many difficult situations and I was increasingly aware that it came to my mind from the outside.

Finally, I can only encourage you to read the Bible because "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17). 🙏



The Word of God gives knowledge in what we believe and why.



Anniversary:

Second Vatican Council and Catechism of the Catholic Church

■ Mary Healy



Looking back at how the Holy Spirit has been at work in recent history, we have two special reasons to celebrate: 2012 was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The aim of Vatican II was to renew the Church by returning to the sources of Christian faith, especially Scripture, the writings of the Fathers, and the liturgy. At the same time, the Council sought to make the light of the gospel shine forth with greater clarity and attractiveness for the people of our time. The Council presented the faith in a way that was new, yet in continuity with two thousand years of tradition.

Several teachings of Vatican II were crucial to paving the way for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which began at the Duquesne Weekend only two years after the closing of the Council.

First, the Council recognised the essential role of charisms in the life of the Church and called for both pastors and the faithful to welcome and foster them in a discerning manner. As Pope John Paul II later said,

Whenever the Spirit intervenes, he leaves people astonished. He brings about events of amazing newness; he radically changes persons and history. This was the unforgettable experience of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council during which, under the guidance of the same Spirit, the Church rediscovered the charismatic dimension as one of her constitutive elements.

Second, the Council brought back to the Church's awareness the baptismal dignity of the lay

faithful. Not only priests and religious but every member of the faithful is called to holiness and has an indispensable role in the Church's mission. This opened the way for more lay leadership and active involvement in evangelisation and other ministries.

Third, the Council emphasised the unique status of Scripture, and urged that the Church provide easy access to the Bible for all the faithful. It also called for a revision of the lectionary to provide a much greater selection of biblical passages at Mass. As a result, many Catholics eagerly began to study and become familiar with the Word of God.

Finally, the Council's Decree on Ecumenism acknowledged the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in other Christian communions. This opened the way for Catholics to meet with Protestant or Orthodox brothers or sisters, to discover how much we have in common and to share one another's gifts.

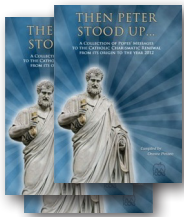
The years following Vatican II were marked by renewal in some areas, but also much confusion and turmoil as many misguided ideas were implemented based on a false idea of "the spirit of Vatican II." Many Catholics became confused about what the Church actually teaches.

Thus, the publication of the Catechism marked another watershed moment. The Catechism is a reliable guide to the teachings of the Church, so that all Catholics can come to a clear understanding of the treasures of our faith.

Truly, we have reason to rejoice and thank the Holy Spirit for the way he has been renewing the Church in our time! 🙏

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

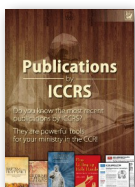
Introducing this second edition of the book *Then Peter stood up...* we are so grateful to the Lord for the large distribution it has already had, by being translated into eight languages—including Chinese—and distributed all over the world.



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 (2nd edition)
Pages: 204
Language: English

This updated version in English includes the Popes' 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 needs a webmaster!

From time to time ICCRS seeks the help of those who are willing to serve at its office with their God-given talents and time, furthering their mission in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal within the Vatican City, at the very heart of the Church.

ICCRS now seeks a well-organised and responsible person who is familiar to graphic design and web mastering, to fulfil the following tasks: Designing and maintaining the website; designing and printing publications; producing publishing material; use of multimedia resources; coordinating translators and proofreaders, among others.

It is important that the volunteer helpers speak English in addition to being fluent in another language.

If you are interested, please send an e-mail to director@iccrs.org with the following information:

- A detailed CV.
- A detailed résumé about your pastoral path.
- A passport style photo.
- A letter of recommendation from your bishop, group/community leader or the NSC of your country.

Photo & Art Galleries

“In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art” (John Paul II, Letter to Artists 12). In times of new evangelisation, ICCRS promotes artistic expressions to enhance the wonderful experience lived two thousand years ago by the early Church: the Pentecost. Such a sometimes indescribable experience, shared by many Christians today through Baptism in the Spirit, can be evoked by art in its many expressions.

By visiting our website, you can catch a glimpse of the main artistic creations that are displayed in our office. We have received paintings, sculptures, photographs, and murals from the five continents. Each of these works is a sparkle of God’s beauty and shows the experience of Pentecost from different perspectives.

As His Holiness Benedict XVI has said, “the beauty of faith, in fact, can never be an obstacle to the creation of artistic beauty, because, in a certain way, it is its lifeblood and its

ultimate realm” (Message of Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Academies). For that reason, we invite artists and friends of the CCR to donate works of art on the topic of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost, to the ICCRS office, located in the heart of the Church. ICCRS staff and visitors will treasure these creations.

In addition to the art gallery, we have dedicated a web page to show photos of the most remarkable ICCRS events throughout its history. The photo gallery shows both historical events and the most recent ones. We intend the photo gallery to also be a visual record of future international events of the RCC.

With your financial or in kind contribution, you can enrich the ICCRS mission within the Church: “Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others” (1 Pt 4:10). 🏡

ICCRS COUNCILLORS’ PROFILES

Ann Brereton



Ann Brereton lives in Tasmania, Australia with her husband David. They have four adult sons and one grandchild. In 1983, she accepted an invitation from her mother to attend a prayer meeting. That same year, she participated in her first life in the Spirit Seminar and so began her personal relationship with Jesus.

She is actively involved with the Church on a Parish level and currently serves as a Lector and Lay Liturgical Leader. In 2007 Ann, David and their youngest son Jacob lived in Uganda for three months with the Yesu Ahuriire Community. This experience gave her a new vision and passion for the work of

Renewal worldwide.

She has served CCR in leadership for approximately 20 years. In 2009, she was elected as the Chairperson of the Australian National Service Committee. The following year, she was selected as the Australian representative on ISAO and has been given the responsibility to coordinate leadership training in the Asia/Oceania Region. In 2011, she joined the ICCRS Council where she is responsible for the region of Oceania.

Ann currently works part time as a Practice Manager for a Medical Practice. She considers serving the Lord a tremendous privilege. 🏡

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Pentecost 2013 in Rome

■ 18-19 May 2013

On the occasion of the Day for the Movements, the Associations and the Lay Associations (18 and 19 May 2013 at St Peter’s Square) with the Holy Father Francis, ICCRS has planned—in collaboration with the most representatives Italian Charismatic realities—a special programme of ‘Pentecost of the Nations’ to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 19 May for all those in the CCR who will come from all over the world. The celebration will be held at St. Paul Basilica Outside the Walls with the following tentative programme:

13.30 Welcome (opening the door of the Basilica)

15.00 Greetings + Praise and worship

1st Meditation: “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit: Pentecost yesterday and today” (cf. Acts 2:4)

by Mons. Joseph Malagrella, USA + Testimony

2nd Meditation: “Pentecost and the Charismatic Renewal in the Third Millennium”

by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Italy + Testimony

Parade of the Nations and solemn invocation of the Holy Spirit

Note: The ICCRS ‘Pentecost of the Nations’ celebration at St Paul Basilica doesn’t need entrance tickets. For the meetings with the Holy Father, people need to book for their entrance tickets at the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation: E-mail: 18-19maggio@annusfidei.va / Fax: +39 06 69885863.



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

Fruits of collaboration

Once again we praise the Lord for Luthiano and his valuable contribution. He finished his service at the ICCRS office on 22 February and returned to Brazil. Thanks to his abilities, we were able to improve our database system, and with his gifts, we were encouraged. We thank him and the Brazilian NSC of CCR for their generosity in supporting this collaboration. We invite all CCR members who are interested in volunteering, or NSCs who would like to sponsor a volunteer, to contact us through director@iccrs.org for this unique experience in support of the CCR worldwide. Visit the 'Voluntary Service' page at www.iccrs.org for more information. 🏠

Renewal Leadership Training Programme in Bahrain 2013

Freedom of worship is not a common expression in the Arabic Gulf region. However, the Kingdom of Bahrain is an exception to this, thanks to its benevolent rulers. All Christians living here do experience this freedom, irrespective of the denominations they belong. The Bahrain Catholic Charismatic Community had the rare blessing of a training programme with the theme "Bear much fruit and become my disciples" (Jn 15:8). The programme was held from 14 to 17 February 2013 at Sacred Heart Church, Bahrain. Leaders from India—Cyril John, Francis D'Souza and Sr Elsis Mathew MSMI—were the resource persons who led the programme. Their sessions helped the community to rediscover the basics of the Charismatic way of living, the Lord's call to holiness and servant-leadership, and the need for us to become effective intercessors in the present world. Sr Elsis also made herself available for counselling, which is an urgent need for people living in the Gulf region. A community of about 250 persons benefitted from the training programme. 🏠

The 40th Anniversary of CCR in different regions

We have received news from various countries that have celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the arrival of the CCR in their territories. Among them: The Indian CCR held the XV National Catholic Charismatic Convention on the theme, "Abide in me, bear much fruit", at Nuvem (Goa) from 12 to 15 November 2012. It drew about 10,000 people from different parts of the country. Speakers included: Archbp Filipe Neri Ferrao, Cyril John, Bp Francis Kalist, Bp Valerian D'Souza, Fr George Kumbloomootil OP, Fr A.J. Thamburaj SJ, Fr Fernando da Costa, Fr Gino Henriques CSsR, Sr Serena MSA and Prof Constantine Fernandez. Across the globe, on 2 and 3 November the CCR in Chile celebrated its 40 years, bringing to an end, at the same time, the Caravan of the Blessing—an evangelistic crusade framed in the Continental Mission. This great event was held at the Caupolicán Theatre of the capital city with preaching by: Fr Charly Garcia (Ecuador), Flávio Da Silva (Brazil), Sebastián Escudero (Argentina) and Fr Enrique Opazo (Chile). 🏠

ICCRS FORMATION

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.



V LFI • Rome, Italy

■ 8–28 September 2013

LTC • Miami - Florida, USA

■ 23 February – 2 March 2014 ■ Contact: Andrés Arango → andresfelipearango@yahoo.com

LTC • Trois-Rivières - Quebec, Canada

■ 29 May – 6 June 2014 ■ Contact: Denise Bergeron → denise@centredeprierealliance.org

LTC • Lima, Peru

■ 26 July – 3 August 2014 ■ Contact: Elvira Cárdenas → nacional@rccperu.org



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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The ICCRS Newsletter is e-mailed freely. It can be posted to you for € 10 per year. In addition, the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin can be e-mailed for a annual subscription of € 15.

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