

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Identity of CCR:

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be servants

■ Robert Canton

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In John 14:12, Jesus says, “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”

What are these “works” to which Jesus was referring? Healing the sick and setting the captives free; opening blind eyes; making the lame walk; cleansing lepers; making the deaf hear; raising the dead to life; and proclaiming the good news to the poor (cf. Luke 7:22).

Indeed, Jesus calls us to do His works. God calls us to be His servants. One of the biggest missions that the Lord calls us to do is to “live” and to preach the Gospel and to bring lost souls to Him. In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul, one of Jesus’ greatest apostles and servants, says, “For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning” (1 Cor 1:17). There may be varied and various missions that the Lord calls us to do, but we absolutely need the anointing—the power of the Holy Spirit—to accomplish them all. If we truly want to serve God with all of our heart and mind by doing His works and to manifest His manifold glory, then we must call on Jesus to let His Spirit empower us. Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you” (Jn 14:15–18).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church # 768 states, “So that she can fulfill her mission, the Holy Spirit “bestows upon [the Church] varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs her. Henceforward the Church, endowed with the gifts of her founder and faithfully observing his precepts of charity, humility and self-denial, receives the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is on earth the seed and the beginning of that kingdom.”

Without doubt, the Lord desires for us to be His effective servants for His Kingdom. As servants, we should strive to achieve our Master’s goals and purposes for His honour and glory and for the building up of His Church. Let us explore some of the characteristics of an effective servant of God:

1. Focused on the Master. An effective servant should always focus his eyes, heart, and mind



on his Master, our Lord Jesus Christ. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader perfecter of faith” (Hb 12:1–2). If we take our eyes off Jesus, chances are we are going to sink into the depths of despair and failure. This was exactly what happened to Peter when he took his eyes off Jesus while he was walking on the Sea of Galilee on a stormy night (cf. Mt 14:22–30).

2. Obedient to the Master. Only in obedience to the Lord and His commands are we able to accomplish the tasks that lie ahead of us. The Lord God says in Deuteronomy 4:1–2, “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it.”

3. Demonstrate humility before the Master and fellow servants. One way to make a great impact on a “lost and dying world” is to be a humble servant. ‘Jesus summoned them and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mt 20:25–28).

‘And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10:42–45). 🙏



The Lord desires for us to be His effective servants for His Kingdom.



ative servant of God:

Event Report:

Pentecost with the Holy Father

■ Dn Christof Hemberger



It was Benedict XVI who had invited the ecclesial movements and new communities to Rome; after he resigned he passed this invitation “as a legacy” to his successor – thus on Pentecost Saturday 250,000 of people from all over the world came to Rome to join Pope Francis in praying for the Holy Spirit. Just as the previous meetings in 1998 and 2006, it was an extraordinary event: Already several hours before its start, thousands of people gathered around St. Peter’s Square. The atmosphere among the people waiting for hours crammed together, was surprising. Many carried flags, banners or other symbols of their movement. Conversations were started, and over and over again, someone began a praise song or a prayer.

The Master of Ceremonies led through a programme of songs and creative presentations as well as testimonies and meditations by representatives of various movements and communities. In the late afternoon, the excitement rose when on the huge screens Francis was seen in his popemobile making his way through the crowds to the main stage. The new Pope was obviously enjoying the gathering. His face was full of joy as he was riding through the crowds and also later when speaking to the faithful and praying with them. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, greeted the Holy Father in the name of all who had come from all over the world. First Francis prayed with those present before the icon of Our Lady “Salus Populi Romani”. Then four young people posed him questions which he answered in a catechesis, followed by the “Veni Creator Spiritus”, the ancient prayer of the Church for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The next day, on Pentecost Sunday, many believers from movements and communities returned for the Eucharist which Pope Francis celebrated in St. Peter’s Square. Here, Francis called the movements “fruits of the coming of the Holy Spirit” and emphasized their positive contribution to the church. He encouraged all to open up to the Holy Spirit who also continues to renew the Church. What he desires for the Church is a longing for unity, an eagerness to reach out and a missionary heart.

Francis encouraged the movements and communities: “I would like to thank all the movements, associations, communities and ecclesial groups. You are a gift and a treasure in the Church! This is what you are! I thank in particular all of you who have come from Rome and from so many parts of the world. Always convey the power of the Gospel! Do not be afraid! Always feel joy and enthusiasm for communion in the Church! May the Risen Lord be with you constantly and may Our Lady protect you!”

On Pentecost Sunday in the afternoon, ICCRS and the Italian communities of the CCR held a “Pentecost of the Nations” celebration in the St Paul Outside the Walls Basilica. The afternoon was an excellent mix of worship and prayer, testimonies and short messages (Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Italy, and Mons. Joseph Malagregga, USA) ending in a solemn Pentecost Eucharist. Long after the day had ended, the members of my German pilgrimage group continued to rave about this meeting. It is always great to experience the international aspect of our CCR movement. The day was filled with fellowship with brothers and sisters and with the joy of the Holy Spirit!

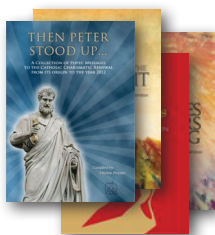


ICCRS Productions

Over the years, ICCRS has published books, booklets, DVDs, and other resources for the CCR.

Publications

Books and booklets on main topics on CCR.



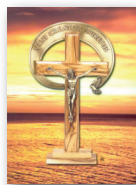
Media Products

DVD: A New Pentecost.
A brief history of the CCR.



Other Products

The Cross of the Renewal
www.crossoftherenewal.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

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



International Prophetic Consultation

■ Bethlehem, Holy Land · 14 – 18 November 2013

As part of the journey towards the Golden Jubilee of CCR, ICCRS is hosting a Prophetic Consultation. At this strategic time in the unfolding of the grace of CCR, we feel called to draw leaders together from the worldwide Renewal. We sense that this will be an important gathering in this very significant place, to spend some days together joined in prayer, listening to the Lord and discerning what the Spirit is saying.

Around 200 key leaders from National Service Committees and other Charismatic realities, Communities and Ministries will gather in Holy Land in prayer, reflection and discernment. On 19th November there will be for the first time a Large Council Meeting, with the participation of the ICCRS Sub-committees (ESCI, AFSCI and ISAO) members. The day after the ICCRS Council will start its annual meeting, which will end on 23rd November. Please join us in prayer!

ATTENDANCE AT THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY

Intercessory Prayer Network

The Word of God exhorts: “Pray for one another” (Js 5:16). One of the fruits of the CCR is undoubtedly “the renewed appreciation for prayer, contemplation, liturgical and sacramental life” (*Christifideles laici* 30). Moreover, intercession has been driven today by numerous prayer groups and ministries scattered throughout the world, which meet each week in praise and worship, meditation and contemplation, intercession and devotions.

ICCRS, joining forces with various realities of the CCR, is forming a large international network of intercessory prayer. An effort of this magnitude was formalised with the creation of the Intercession Sub-committee within the ICCRS Council and seeks to become established as a worldwide network of prayer that serves as spiritual support for the RCC and the universal Church.

Currently, you can send prayer requests in three ways:


1. Online through the site: www.iccrs.org,

2. E-mail through: prayer@iccrs.org, and

3. Fax prayer line through **+39 06 6988 7230**.

Prayer requests submitted through the website are only the ones sent to the network of intercessory prayer. Some of these requests are published on the website so visitors pray for these intentions, too. ICCRS staff meet every morning, before resuming their normal operations in the office to intercede for the prayer requests received from around the world.

You may submit in faith prayer requests to ICCRS through the website and your request will be included in the network of intercessory prayer, following Jesus’ promise: “if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven” (Mt 18:19).

If you are part of a stable intercession ministry or group, please contact us to offer your intercessory prayer. Please indicate the reference person and attach a brief note about the origin, mission and activities of your intercession ministry. 

ABOUT ICCRS


Intercession Sub-committee

■ Cyril John

St Paul listed intercession as a priority for every believer in 1 Tim 2:1-2. One of the special charisms in operation in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been the gift of intercession. There are intercession vigils, regional and national days of intercession, fasting prayer, 40 hours adoration and intercession, etc. being organized in several places. Intercession centers and perpetual adoration chapels have come up and there are also a number of people who have sensed the call to be intercessors and have volunteered to spend time interceding for the Renewal and the Church and the evangelization of the world.

After witnessing the steady growth of intercession and realizing the importance of intercession, a need was felt to network intercession initiatives and ministries worldwide. With the

objective of networking and coordinating intercession, an ICCRS Sub-Committee on Intercession was constituted at the ICCRS Council meeting held in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil in July 2012. In future, ICCRS will explore the possibility of organizing regional and international gatherings of intercessors.

To start with, the ICCRS Sub-Committee for Asia-Oceania (ISAO) will be organizing an event on prophetic intercession, “Intercessors, Arise” in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 22 to 25 January, 2014 to bring together intercessors in the region for a time of teachings on intercession, listening to the Lord and prayer. With a view to promoting balanced teachings on intercession, ICCRS also published English edition of the book, *Pray Lifting up Holy Hands: The Prayer of Intercession* by Cyril John. 

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Great Gathering of the CCR Family

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:4)

■ Kampala, Uganda · 30 June – 6 July 2014

The Great Gathering of the CCR Family is a huge ICCRS celebration as part of the journey towards the CCR Golden Jubilee. The event will be held in Uganda, bringing together delegates from all the five continents of the world to Africa for the first time, to pray and seek the Lord for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Renewal and the Church worldwide. This event is organised by ICCRS in collaboration with the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Uganda Catholic Charismatic Renewal (UCCR), and the African Sub-committee of ICCRS (AFSCI).

The Panafrican Congress of Renewal leaders and the 2nd World Youth Meeting of CCR will take place within the given days. A special workshop for priests will be also offered during the event.

Find all the details on the website of CCR Uganda: www.ccruganda.org.

Bishop Joe Grech bursary Fund

The special fund that was set up in memory of dear Bishop Joe, has now been closed. We are grateful to all those who made a donation to help support ICCRS formation projects. This year we have been able to offer bursary assistance to some LFI participants as well as giving a small amount towards our special formation project in China. If you would still like to make a donation to help support ICCRS formation or our special project in China you can do so in the usual way, by sending a donation directly to the ICCRS office or by using Paypal. 🏠

The V LFI, a key boost for incipient and experienced Charismatic leaders

From 8 to 28 September ICCRS had the joyful opportunity to celebrate the fifth edition of the Leadership Formation Institute in Rome (Italy). A total of sixty-one participants from 21 different countries were able to enjoy a sound training in fundamental subjects in the Church. The programme was enriched with practical sessions on the CCR, leadership and charismatic ministry, in addition to visits to Christian sites and dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Speakers: Michelle Moran (UK · ICCRS President), James Murphy (USA · Director of the ICCRS Formation Project), Charles Whitehead (UK · Former ICCRS President), Mary Healy (USA · Chairperson of the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission), Sr Nancy Kellar (USA · Former ICCRS Director), Oreste Pesare (Italy · ICCRS Director), Jude Muscat (Malta · ICCRS Councillor) and Fr Fulvio Di Fulvio (Italy). 🏠

ICCRS celebrates two decades of Pontifical Recognition

It was a grace for ICCRS in the person of its President, Michelle Moran, and its Director, Oreste Pesare, having celebrated —last Saturday, 14th September— the twentieth anniversary of its recognition by the Holy See.

At the celebration were present other important figures in the history of ICCRS, who delivered a brief testimony and thanksgiving for such a significant commemoration: H. E. Rev. Card. Joseph Cordes (former Episcopal Adviser of ICCRS), Charles Whitehead (former President of ICCRS), Sr Nancy Kellar (former Director of ICCRS) and Matteo Calisi (former Vice-president of ICCRS). Others, however, took part in a spiritual way, conveying by various means their good wishes and promises of prayers for the mission of ICCRS.

The celebration began with the Eucharistic Celebration in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, presided over by Card. Cordes and followed by a reception in the Pius XI hall of San Callistus Palace. Around 150 people were present to celebrate the selfless work of ICCRS along this 20 years that, as the Statutes express, focuses on the “service and promotion of the CCR all over the world, under the Holy Spirit’s action, in close contact with the Holy See” (art. 1). Among those present were also Vatican members, former and current members of the ICCRS staff, members of the Catholic Fraternity, members of charismatic Italian communities, the participants of the V Leadership Formation Institute and volunteers and friends of ICCRS. 🏠

ICCRS FORMATION

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



LTC • New York, 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 → national@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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