

SERVING THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SINCE 1972

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For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Fanning the flame through Prophetic Action:

Spirit of Power and love 2 Timothy 1:7

Ann Brereton



Prophetic action by it's very definition is putting into action the saving plan of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace flowing from the baptism in the Holy Spirit gives witness to the actions of God revealed through the actions of humankind. Catholic lay men and women, by virtue of their baptism and confirmation are empowered in Christ through the Holy Spirit, to be active participants in the mission of Christ to bring the love of God to every person God has created.

In very simple terms before the Second Vatican Council the Church had a distinctive hierarchy clearly defined between that of the bishop/priest/religious and the laity. Historically the voice of the laity in the Roman Catholic tradition has been silent. Lack of education resulted in most lay people taking a passive role within the Church. During the Second Vatican Council the voice of the Holy Spirit resounded loudly and clearly in this regard, and as a result the laity were exhorted to participate in the evangelising mission of the Church.

We're living in a time when the active engagement and integration of the laity is opening at many levels and in many dimension of Church life. St Paul tells us that we are all part of the one body. No one person is more important than the other, no position of greater value than the other (1 Cor 12:12-31). All are necessary, and the more integrated the Church becomes in this regard the more she will reflect the fullness and love of God. St John Paul II expressed in Christifideles Laici, the laity are "untiring labourers who work in the Lord's

vineyard. Confident and steadfast through the power of God's grace, these are the humble yet great builders of the kingdom of God in history".

A 'history' in which we are invited to be active participants. The time of passivity is over! St Paul exhorts "For God did not give us a spirit of

cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" (2 Tim 1:7). We must be cautious not to limit our understanding of power and love. We can, mistakenly, think that for an act to be powerful, it must be sensational. The spirit of power is not only expressed through exercising



the charisms in 1 Cor 12:1-12. Power calls forth to loving action the prophetic voice of God - a voice so needed in this world of scepticism, individualism and fear. This loving action can be found in the simple smile, the loving word, the helpful act offered to acquaintances and strangers, as well as to those we love. What makes these simple acts so powerful is that they were activated through the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

From the beginning of the scriptures, God used the voice of the Prophets to reveal His plan. These men and women prayed, listened, discerned, waited (sometimes in fear and trembling) and then acted regardless of the cost. Unfortunately we can limit our prophetic gifting to the 1½ hours spent at a prayer meeting. We pray, listen, thank God, go home and forget that God has spoken to us and therefore never act.

Jesus lived prophetically. He moved and lived and had His being in the Power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was continually active even when Jesus was not aware of it (Mk 5:30-31). There was no sin, no ego, no fear within Jesus to block the power of the Holy Spirit 'moving where and how he willed' it simply happened. Through the grace of God, even with our fallen nature, the Holy Spirit desires to live prophetically, and so to use us to testify to the love and power of God.

Within the Charismatic dimension of the Church this power, this move of the Holy Spirit has endless, exciting possibilities. Our co-operation with the graces received through the baptism in the Holy Spirit means a new world had been opened to us, through us and in us for the good of the whole Church and the world. We must keep fanning the flame.

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Event Report:

Great Gathering of CCR Family

Julienne Mesedem



From June 30th to July 4th, 2014, a International Meeting of Catholic Charismatic Renewal took place in Kampala, Uganda, with the theme "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4)

All five continents were represented with about 2,500 people. We were honoured by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio who delivered the encouraging message from the Holy Father. We were also strengthened by the presence of several Cardinals, among them, Cardinal Turkson from the Vatican, and from several Archbishops, Bishops and numerous priests.

The President of the Republic of Uganda edified us with his advice, asking us to live according the Word of God. He said that with a population of 86% of Christians, there should not be 18% HIV positive. Referring to Genesis 1,28 "Be fruitful and fill the earth and subdue it..." he said that it was his impression that Africans chose to fill the earth without subduing it; indeed if they were working, foreign assistance would not be necessary. Referring to the Good Samaritan, he exhorted us to abolish tribal and religious differences, in order to live in peace.



This recommendation was illustrated during the Eucharist by various dances and traditional costumes.

Sister Miriam Duggan originally from Ireland but a long term missionary in Uganda spoke about the call to holiness. We were created to be saints (1 P1,15; Ep 1,4). Everyone is called to holiness, and not just a privileged minority.

Dn Larry Oney (USA) talked about reconciliation. He said that there is no reconciliation without justice: reconciliation is restoration, and to reach it, it is necessary to:

- Recognize wounds, as human dignity was compromised and destroyed.
- Re-establish rights and restore what was spoilt.
- Ask for forgiveness.

There is no reconciliation without repentance.

Bishop Sosthème Bayemi (Cameroun) invited us to go back to the Upper-Room which is our heart. Saint Augustine said: "I looked everywhere for you, Lord, forgetting that you were in my heart." The open heart of Jesus is the open source of his love, which we receive with the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the spiritual dialysis. Returning to the Cenacle is returning to mission. We must go out, and be missionaries.

Oreste Pesare (Italy) helped us, via a DVD presentation to re-live the Convocation in Rome of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal with Pope Francis. Where the Holy Father said, "The Catholic, Charismatic Renewal is a great force serving the spreading of the gospel in the joy of the Holy Spirit. I expect you to spread the grace of the anointing, to witness ecumenism and unity. Get closer to the poor and the needy as touching their flesh is touching the wounded flesh of Jesus. Adore your Lord God, look for holiness in the new life of the Holy Spirit, get out, and walk the streets to evangelize."



Michele Moran (England), President of ICCRS, reflecting on Mary in the Upper Room, said that Mary always leads us to her son Jesus, and she cannot be separated from her spouse the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit and the bride say, come."

She also talked about charisms, which are graces given for the good of the community, and she asked us to be better fire-starters, to spread the culture of Pentecost. It is not enough to light the fire, it is essential to maintain the flame.

Cardinal Turkson told us that after the Resurrection, the body destined to be dust is now destined to glory. The resurrected Jesus still carries the signs of his passion, of his love, and he takes them to heaven with him, which means that the love of God for us is eternal.

He also presented us with several ways of "going out":

- Abraham leaves his security to go to the place shown by God.
- Joseph goes out because of betrayal, and eventually becomes a blessing for his nation.
- Moses is saved from the waters to help save his people.
- Paul, the persecutor becomes an evangelist of the Word.

All these teachings were completed by a round table about the practice of evangelization and by a intense time of adoration, prayers of intercession, healing, ceremony of anointing, pilgrimage to our Brothers Orthodox, as some of the martyrs were Orthodox, and the concluding "sending to mission" after a ceremony of light in the image of Jesus, Light of the world.

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Event Report:

Pope's visit Kkottongnae Community in South Korea



Kottongnae, a member of the CCR in South Korea, was created to deliver God's love by extending a helping hand to 'the poorest of the poor who are even unable to beg for food'. We go out and find the abandoned caused by lack of love in society who end up being left to die in the street. We warm-heartedly welcome the vulnerable homeless. We provide them with food, shelter and a medical treatment and hold a funeral for them.

It is Kkottongnae that Pope Francis chose to visit and to meet the least of our neighbours in Korea.

On the way to the facility he stopped the car as soon as he saw children, embracing them, smiling warmly to the babies and the handicapped children.

On August 16, around 30,000 lay and religious people gathered at Kkottongnae from early in the morning. Pope Francis arrived at Kkottongnae at 4:30 pm and started his meeting with the Kkottongnae family members by praying in a chapel at the House of Hope (a facility for the handicapped)

At the House of Hope he did not sit on the chair prepared for him but stood until he left the facility. He watched the performance of the handicapped children there. Ten children performed a song and dance item for him. After the dance, they greeted him saying "Saranghamnida (We love you in Korean)" with the sign of a heart. Pope Francis praised them with a thumbs-up gesture saying "Best" along with a smile.

He also embraced each of the 79 people showing his love for them. They were the handicapped, the sick from the Hospice, babies waiting for adoption, and the elderly.

The original plan was for the Holy Father to visit the house for 30

minutes but instead, he spent about an hour and blessed them all. Fr. Oh, founder of Kkottongnae expressed our gratitude saying "For 38 years Kkottongnae has been serving those who have no one to depend on, nor strength to beg for food and who are dying on the street. It will go on dreaming of a world where no one is forsaken, a world where everyone is respected just as God is, a world where everyone loves his neighbor as he loves himself." The Holy Father then blessed us all saying "The Lord's peace be with you all here" and left for the Garden for aborted babies. At the Garden for aborted babies, he prayed, for three minutes, in solemn silence for the dignity of human life taken from these innocent babies.

Afterwards, he met around 4400 religious men and women of Korea at the Training Institute of Love. During his talk he said "From experience I know that community life is not always easy, but it is a providential training ground for the heart." And "Your chastity, poverty and obedience will be a joyful witness to God's love in the measure that you stand firmly on the rock of his mercy."

After the short meeting with the religious, he went to the House of Spirituality of Love for the meeting with the leaders of the Apostolate of the Laity. He met 153 leaders and said "To assist the poor is good and necessary, but it is not enough." And "This activity should not be limited to charitable assistance, but must also extend to a practical concern for human growth. Not just charitable assistance, but personal development." The Holy Father's three-hour-visit to Kkottongnae shows the greatness of practicing God's love in action toward the poor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat

"Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation."

■ Rome, Italy · 10 - 14 June 2015

At this time of the Spirit in which the Church calls us to a New Evangelisation, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offers to the presbyters an opportunity to stir up the gift of God which is in them by the imposition of hands (cf. 2 Tim 1:6) by participating at the 3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat.

Organised by ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity, this spiritual retreat is open to all Catholic ordained ministers of the various languages, races and nations, to live a renewed Pentecost in the heart of the Church. The event will take place from 10 to 15 June 2015 in Rome (Italy) and its theme is "Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation."

Programme:

- 10/June · "Gathered"
- 11/June · "Reconciled"
- 12/June · "Transformed"
- 13/June · "Empowered"
- 14/June · "Sent... for a New Evangelisation"

The registration is OPEN on our website.

For more information visit our website

www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org.

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NEWS FROM THE WORLD

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

Jeunesse Lumière - Burundi

About 200 young people from the Diocese of RCC Ngozi Burundi, gathered in fellowship under the name "Jeunesse Lumière", held their first rally in the grounds of Don Bosco High School of Ngozi from 16 to 17 August 2014.

The theme was: "Let your light shine before men (Matthew 5:16)." In the year of the tenth anniversary of the RCC in the diocese, this event has been for many young people, who demonstrated their conversion and decision to follow Jesus the true light, a real time of grace.

The preachers were members of the "Foyer de Charité" from Bujumbura, Burundi. Father Charles Girukwishaka particularly called the youth to be light to the nations. The young people were very happy with the message of encouragement delivered by Christof Hemberger the head of the ICCRS Youth Committee. For them it was an important sign for the unity of all young Charismatics worldwide.

The youth also experienced very deep moments of praise and Eucharistic adoration.

The summit of this memorable weekend was the celebration of the Holy Mass and the sending of the young people to be lights in their parishes and in their communities. They have decided to meet again next year for another season of grace.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD OVER THEM AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND THEM. THEY WERE TERRIFIED, BUT THE ANGEL SAID, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID. LOOK, I BRING YOU NEWS OF GREAT JOY, A JOY TO BE SHARED BY THE WHOLE PEOPLE.

TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.

(LUK€ 2: 9-11)

ICCRS FORMATION

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



LFI · Rome, Italy

■ 6 - 26 September 2015

Contact: ICCRS Formation → formation@iccrs.org

ICCRS offers its VI Leadership Formation Institute programme. Classes include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Mariology, Kerygma, CCR, Leadership and Ministry. Students will be offered practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of the ministry within CCR. In addition, the students will go on several field trips in the eternal city of Rome.

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