



# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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## Fanning the flame through the Spirit of Power Love & Self Control: **Spiritual Ecumenism**

■ **Dn. Christof Hemberger**

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Dn. Christof Hemberger

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*In his moving speech at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, Pope Francis addressed several topics he considers important for the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. One of the more delicate topics he entrusted us with was his request to live a “spiritual ecumenism”. He told us, “To remain united in the love that the Lord Jesus asks us to have for all people, and in prayer to the Holy Spirit for the attainment of this unity which is necessary for evangelization in the name of Jesus. Remember that the Charismatic Renewal is de facto ecumenical in nature... The Catholic Renewal rejoices in what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in the other Churches” (1 Malines 5,3).*

Since he took office, Francis has surprised the world in various ways. It is not about all his “novel teachings” that make him so special but his simple, humble way of living the teachings of Holy Scripture in a consistent manner. He keeps defying conventions and traditions because he is simply not able to do otherwise. He not only speaks about loving those living at the margins but he kisses them and focuses on them in public. The same is true for the topic of “lived ecumenism”, Francis not only speaks about the fact that the others are our brothers and sisters in the faith, he sends them greetings, meets with their representatives and does not shy away from asking them for forgiveness for the deeds inflicted upon them in Church History in the name of Catholics.

So what exactly does it mean when the Pope calls us as the CCR to a “spiritual ecumenism?” Firstly, it certainly means that he is calling us to follow his example recognizing “the others” as our brothers

and sisters in the Lord. What unites us is so much more than what separates us. Over and over again, Pope Francis sets an example of what this can look like in everyday life. He does not brush over the differences existing between the churches. And he does not fool himself into

believing that unity would exist in all areas. But he uses the interspaces that certainly exist in order to live out unity in any possible way. Friendliness rather than rejection. Relationship rather than marginalisation. Praying together rather than talking about each other. A handshake and a smile rather than a slap in the face...

In his address to the CCR, the Holy Father emphasizes the significance of the Malines Documents for the Charismatic Renewal. There it says: “The Charis-

matic Renewal is de facto ecumenical in nature”. We are indeed the only movement in the whole world in which all denominational realities exist: We have charismatic brothers and sisters in all denominations! What a treasure can be found in this fact! What a gift of unity despite our differences.



In some regions of the world, the CCR can already look back on lived experiences in this area. At times, there are shared worship services, days of intercession or even conferences. Here, it is essential to respect and value the other in his ‘otherness’ – and to seek and celebrate the Lord together full of joy about all that unites us. In other parts of the world, this still seems to be quite difficult. There, the orientation of the CCR has been rather unecumenical for a long time, partly due to attacks and assaults by brothers and sisters in the Lord... Here it is important to look to our past of the CCR and to rediscover our roots: The CCR is ecumenical in nature – and to reject this would mean to reject the grace that God has given us as a movement.

Wouldn't it be time now to discover the brother and the sister in them just as Pope Francis is modelling? Maybe it is too early for common projects and meetings. But it is not too early for prayer! I encourage you to intercede for your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Do it in love and respect, not in presumption, “they should become like us...” Take steps toward them! Invite the leaders of the charismatics in the other denominations to get to know each other and pray together! Forgive them and also ask them for forgiveness if this should be necessary. The Lord will bless these steps towards each other! If we take seriously and put into practice what Francis is telling us, we will be an example for the world which is full of division, disunity and exclusion. We will make a difference – and this is what Jesus had in mind when he prayed: “Father, make us one that the world may believe that you sent me!” (John 17:21). 🙏

“  
**The Charismatic Renewal is de facto ecumenical in nature.**  
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# Update from Doctrinal Commission

In 2014 the Doctrinal Commission expanded to eight members from eight different countries. They met for the first time on April 3rd in Rome, and began preparations for a document on deliverance ministry. The purpose of the document, which is currently in the drafting stage, is to help ensure that deliverance ministry in the CCR is carried out in pastorally sound ways and in full accord with Catholic faith. It will also serve as a reference point for pastors who oversee CCR groups.

Here is an introduction to the current members of the Commission:

**Archbishop Kevin McDonald**, Ecclesial Advisor to the Doctrinal Commission, is Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark in the UK. He lives in South London and his principal responsibilities are in the areas of ecumenism and inter-religious relations. He is currently the liaison bishop for relations between the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the National Service Committee of the CCR. He is a Research Fellow and a Governor at Heythrop College in London and has close relations also with St Mary's University in Twickenham.

**Dr Mary Healy**, Chair of the Doctrinal Commission, teaches Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, USA. She is co-editor of the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture, is on the Pentecostal-Catholic International Dialogue, and often speaks at CCR conferences and other events. In 2014 she was appointed by Pope Francis to the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

**Fr Peter Hocken**, born in 1932 and ordained in 1964 in Northampton, England, now lives in Hainburg, Austria. His ministry is primarily one of teaching and writing about the Lord, about Renewal, about the full work of the Holy Spirit, unity, and the coming glory.

**Fr Etienne Vetö** lives in Rome, where his main ministry is to teach dogmatic theology at the Gregorian University. As a member of the Chemin Neuf Community he lives in community, and supervises some of the community's foundations and some aspects of its training.

**Fr Dr Wojciech Nowacki**, priest of the diocese of Łomża, Poland, is professor of dogmatic theology in the major seminary in Łomża and is also the parish priest at Corpus Christi Parish in Łomża. He is a member of the Pastores quarterly program board devoted to the formation of priests and of the CCR Renewal Notebooks bimonthly. He is the author of numerous articles. Since 1993 he has been the coordinator of Renewal in the Spirit in the Diocese of Łomża. He is also a member of the CCR National Team Coordinators, the CCR national theological commission, the European ICCRS Subcommittee, and ICCRS Council.

**John Duiker** lives in Melbourne and is completing a doctorate in theology and giving teachings to many charismatic prayer communities. His main ministry is as a business manager and pastoral associate for one of the largest parishes in Australia, and he also leads a prayer group in his local parish. He is also an accomplished worship leader and singer/songwriter who loves praising the Lord together with his wife Sharon and their seven children.

**Fr George Kumblumootil**, a Dominican priest, is professor of Sacred Scripture and Dean of the Faculty of Theology at St. Charles Major Seminary in Nagpur, India. He is also Regent of Studies for the Dominican province of India, in charge of permanent formation of the province, president of the Intellectual Commission of the province, and a member of the Provincial Council. He has been involved in the CCR since 1983 and has preached retreats around the world.

**Fr Martin Birkenhauer**, a priest of the Diocese of Trier, Germany, teaches religion and German literature and language at the Catholic Willi-Graf-Schulen in Saarbrücken. He is head of the CCR national theological committee and spokesman for the CCR in the Diocese of Trier. He is also a member of the Priests' Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and the Diocesan Synod of Trier. His theological interests are communicating charismatic practice and theology in modern academic settings, deliverance, faith building, and Charismatic/Pentecostal denominations. 🐾

## 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.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Priests' Retreat

## "Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation".

■ Rome, Italy • 10 - 14 June 2015 THE ONLINE REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN TO BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND CELIBATE DEACONS

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 🐾

**Please help us to spread the news!**

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

For more information visit our website  
[www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org).

# Ann Brereton & Br James Shin

## ANN BRERETON



I was born and raised a Catholic in a small Parish Community. I received a Catholic education and attended weekly Mass with my parents and two brothers. When I left home, I still went to Sunday Mass although it was more from habit and a sense of duty (as well as earning some 'brownie points' to get into heaven). My first experience of anything charismatic was a large Pentecostal gathering where I thought everyone was really strange. My mother invited me to a prayer meeting during the year of 1983 and I experienced my first Life in the Spirit Seminar during that same year. I did not receive the gift of tongues for a couple of years after this and the initial prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit was not a dramatic, life changing moment for me. In fact I remember commenting to a friend that "I felt nothing". However the love of the people at the meeting, their unity and obvious love of the Lord drew me back and with time, I noticed within myself a deeper hunger for a relationship with God, His Word and Prayer.

Today I serve the Renewal at a local level in the State of Tasmania where I live. I am currently the Chairperson of the National Service Committee of Australia and the representative for Oceania on the ICCRS Council and ISAO. Oceania consists of many small, remote Countries and it can be challenging to make contact with these Islands. By the Grace of God, through my husband's work, I have been able to

visit both Samoa and Fiji and make contact with the Renewal in these places. My other responsibilities are to chair the ICCRS Newsletter committee and I oversee leadership training for ISAO.

I enjoy reading. Apart from the Scriptures, Gerard de Groot's "Following of Christ" inspires and leads me deeper in my relationship with the Lord. A friend gave me the book "The Sanctifier" written by Archbishop Luis Martinez. I have found it to be one of the most insightful books on the Holy Spirit I have ever read. On almost every page I have highlighted a word, phrase or paragraph. I also enjoy reading a good thriller and try to resist the temptation to sneak a look at the last page to find out who 'did it'.

At this point in our short history, I see the Renewal at a crossroad with a choice to have us remain as we are or take the path which I believe the Holy Spirit is leading us on now. I see this future Renewal filled with humble people who keep Jesus at the centre of their lives and bow down before Him in reverent and true worship. As servants they listen and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, courageously move in His power building the Kingdom of God, transforming the Church and the world. As with the early Church, signs and wonders will accompany them and many people particularly those on the fringes of society, will know the transforming love of God. This Renewal will surprise us all and we will be in awe of the power of God. 🙏

## BR JAMES SHIN



Dec. 22, 2014 was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Baptism in the Spirit. The experience that I had 25 years ago is an unforgettable moment. It happened at an unexpected time and at an unexpected place. It was in the middle of the offering in a morning Mass with the religious. Fr. Oh Woong-jin, the founder of Kkottongnae, spoke in a tongue followed by its interpretation right after his homily. He said 'If one person lives his best, he will receive the Spirit of God'. As soon as it began, the strong impact like a million-volt of electricity came down to my head and I became overwhelmed with hotness and a shudder, tears and exclamation, moving and full of joy as if I got an electric shock. I heard the following message:

"I will make you not only a physical healer but also a spiritual healer". I had been taking care of about 1,000 patients at Kkottongnae as a volunteer at the time. It made me very exhausted to care for so many patients by myself with no day off and without enough sleep.

I had healed their physical body as a medical doctor but could not heal their wounds of being abandoned. I felt so full of pain especially when I saw dying patients with hatred and grudge not forgiving their family members who had abandoned them.

I asked the Lord: "Please make me not only a medical doctor for the physical body but also one for the spirit". I asked that for a year through pious prayer. The Lord answered my prayer. I experienced the Baptism in the Spirit and received the Charism of spiritual healing then. When I prayed for the patients after that, they were able to recover their broken relation-

ship with God and also with the families who had abandoned them. I could work joyfully with new strength of the Holy Spirit given to me. I have been serving the Renewal by Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Youth, University Students, Clergy and the Religious and even the Sick. And I have been involved in Workshops for the Youth, Charismatic retreat for Holy Family, Charism School and Charismatic Prayer meeting for the Religious.

I've been trying to harmonize Charisms and Love through the practice of Love which is the fruit of the Spirit and to give the spiritual service with the Charisms to the poor neighbors at Kkottongnae in order to lead them to the Salvation by the holistic care through the physical, inner, and spiritual healing. I have read "A l'cole de l'Esprit Saint by Jacques Philippe", this book describes that one should open oneself and know and follow the movement of the Spirit in order to become holy. It says how to grow and utilize the spiritual sense to the activities of the Spirit and to accept them in order for us to achieve the virtues. It also adds an explanation regarding the detailed standard of the discernment which is important to charismatic leaders.

If the CCR can overcome the division in the Church by praying to the Spirit of Unity and give opportunities to more Clergy to experience God's presence through the Spirit and also if the faithful who experienced the Spirit are not only staying in the prayer meeting but going out for a mission and practicing love for neighbors, the Charismatic Renewal will be the future main agent for the new Evangelization as the apostles were. 🙏

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



## HELP A PRIEST PARTICIPATE IN THE 3<sup>rd</sup> WORLDWIDE PRIEST' RETREAT

Do you **WANT** to help a priest participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Priests' Retreat from June 10-14 in Rome? You **CAN** help with 'Mass stipends' so many priests, who are not able to afford to, in realizing the dream to participate in this retreat.

What to **GIVE**? ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity give you the opportunity to support our priests with any (small or big) offer in order to cover the cost of food, accommodation and transport in Rome of one or more of them during this retreat.

You will **RECEIVE**, as thanks for your contribution, the grace of one or more Masses celebrated for your intentions, by the priest or priests whom you have helped.

*Together we can, give us a hand!*

Please for more information and to donate visit our website [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or email [events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org).

### 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 training programmes.



### LFI • Rome, Italy

- 6 – 26 September 2015
- Contact: ICCRS Formation → [formation@iccrs.org](mailto: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. The school will be held primarily in English, but other languages will be made available depending on the number of requests. Please make an indication on the registration form so that we can take your language preference into consideration. Online registration is open on [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org).



### LTC • Slovenia

- 15 – 22 November 2015
- Contact: Andrej Justinek → [andrej.justinek@gmail.com](mailto:andrej.justinek@gmail.com)

### LTC • Seattle - USA

- 10 – 17 April 2016
- Contact: Tammie Stevens → [LTC2016@wwccr.org](mailto:LTC2016@wwccr.org)

### LTC • Poland

- 06 – 13 August 2016
- Contact: Fr.Wojciech Nowacki → [wnowacki@odnowa.orgau](mailto:wnowacki@odnowa.orgau)

### LTC • Guadeloupe

- 22 – 30 October 2016
- Contact: Huguette BOQUE-OLANOR → [o.boque@only.fr](mailto:o.boque@only.fr)

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is for people of all ages, from charismatic organisations worldwide who want to spend some time of their lives being formed in leadership within the CCR.

In partnership with local Charismatic realities, ICCRS provides this week-long programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current ones. The programme includes daily Mass, Eucharist Adoration and a time of Charismatic Praise and Worship. The teachings cover: the foundations and vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; and practical help and ideas for ministry. There is also time for reflection, sharing and ministry.

## ICCRS International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

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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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