

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Fanning the flame through the Spirit of Power Love & Self Control: **Go out to all the world**

■ Fr Emmanuel Tusiime

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In our times there is a great need for a New Evangelization as we always read from encyclical letters or listen to the encouraging messages of our Holy Fathers. Evangelii Nuntiandi (On Evangelization in the Modern World). The scriptures in the gospel of Mark 16:15 "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to all creation" is a responsibility given to all Christians but first and foremost we are to proclaim the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every baptised Christian has the capacity to evangelize and should be reaching out far and near without fear because when we receive this special grace, God gives us the spirit of power to Love.

Preaching or going out to proclaim the gospel to all creation does not necessarily mean taking a flight and travelling to all corners of the earth, the Good News of God's infinite love should be proclaimed in every situation where we find ourselves and to everyone who believes and at times to non-believers.

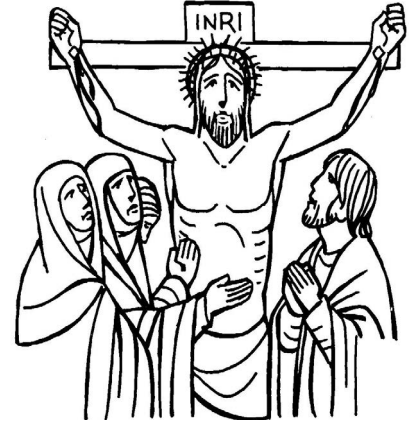
When Jesus is proclaimed, it is accompanied by the saving works of the Holy Spirit. Jesus confirms this to his disciples in Mark 15:16-18, "whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with the believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues, they will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick who will recover".

We may ask ourselves how the flame of the Spirit can be witnessed when there is so much lack of

Love in the World, in our Churches, in our communities and neighbourhood. It does not mean that those who bear the gospel will always live without any

suffering or difficulty. In fact, we are involved in a spiritual war; the more reason then, to fan into flame our first love.

When I first encountered God's love in 1983, through the baptism in the Spirit; it was an expe-



rience of deep and profound love of God Father that moved me to read the bible daily, prayer each moment, sing songs of praise as I walked, a deep desire to tell others about Jesus and to live a life of holiness. How I wish these moments are relived as you read this article.

A deep desire to walk with the Holy Spirit each moment of our life is possible. It is a moment of manifesting the fruits of the Spirit in our daily lives – the inward and outward effect of having the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling with us – evidenced in "love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal 5: 22-28).

No matter how much we must struggle to live in a fallen world and to get the gospel out, the final victory of the Word of God is certain. Proclaiming Jesus brings great joy to every place where it is received. The gospel is powerful to save sinners, even those deliberately sold out to Satan. We should be zealous like an athlete to enter the race of eternal life; everyone can run to the finish.

My experience is that, the power of the gospel does not depend on our ability to use convincing words; neither does it depend on our charming personalities. The power of the gospel lies with the Spirit of God, and all we have to do is to be available to the call and reach out in Love.

We are now moving towards the Golden Jubilee in 2017 focusing on the maturity of Catholic Charismatic Renewal; fanning the flame of our experience of encountering Jesus as we continue to seek unity in diversity. Jesus gave the Church the unending task to evangelize until all nations have heard Good News and until every person has become his disciple. Let us take on the task of New evangelization with a renewed zeal. 🙏



Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to all creation.



Report:

3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat

■ Michelle Moran



It was a wonderful experience to gather with over 1,000 priests from 89 countries in St John Lateran Basilica in Rome, for the 3rd worldwide Priests' retreat. The theme was, 'called to holiness for a new evangelisation'. This built on the history of the first charismatic Priests' retreat, held in 1984, which had the theme 'a call to holiness' and the second retreat, in 1990, entitled 'called for a new evangelisation'. The retreat was organised jointly with the Catholic Fraternity and was part of our common journey towards the Great Jubilee of CCR in 2017.

The overall aim of the retreat was to enable the priests to be refreshed and renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lateran Basilica was the perfect place for the retreat. It became a true spiritual home to many of the priests during those days. The lunch was organised in big tents outside the Basilica. This enabled the priests not only to enjoy their food but also to have an opportunity to meet old friends and new from every part of the world.

The retreat took the form of a spiritual journey following the pathway of *Evangelii Gaudium*. The journey had the themes of reconciliation, transformation, empowerment and mission. In the mornings, after praise and worship and the liturgical prayer of the Church, there was a talk on the retreat theme and a time of Eucharistic Adoration. The afternoons were more dynamic with testimonies, exhortations and times of ministry.

On the opening evening, Fr Gino Henriquez who had been involved in the organisation of the previous two worldwide

Priests' retreats gave a short testimony and conveyed a greeting from Fr Tom Forrest. After the event he said that it was a beautiful and meaningful retreat and very helpful for him to be part of a large priestly gathering and participate in charismatic prayer. The opening Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Rylko the President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

There were so many powerful and deep moments during the retreat. It is impossible to share them all. Fr Raniero Cantalamessa gave two of the main retreat themes in his usual very anointed way. Many priests commented on his leading the time of Eucharistic Adoration which was also a beautiful meditation for priests on the Eucharist. Cardinal Peter Turkson, gave a very moving and biblically insightful retreat talk on the theme of reconciliation. This was followed in the afternoon, by Don Livio Tacchini from Italy, giving a very challenging message to the priests on 'the cost of reconciliation'. This led into a wonderful time for confession and prayer ministry.

The theme of transformation was presented by Fr. Jonas Abib from Brazil. This was followed by a special time of Eucharistic Adoration led by Bishop Sosthens from Cameroon. Many priests shared that as Jesus drew close to them during this time of adoration, they received a very strong anointing.

The three hour intervention of the Holy Father was certainly an unforgettable highlight. Firstly, he addressed the priests in a very fatherly manner speaking as a true shepherd and pastor. Then he answered spontaneous questions, one

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Open European CCR Conference

"I have come to bring fire to the earth" (Luke 12:49)


■ Warsaw, Poland · 1 - 4 October 2015

The European subcommittee of ICCRS invites you for an open European conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This will take place in Poland in 2015. The meeting in 2015 will be an open conference for everyone in the CCR and shall be an encouragement to all CCR in our time!

Date and Place: The conference will take place from 1st – 4th October 2015 in Warsaw, Poland. We will provide accommodation in hotels and retreat-houses close by as well as a shuttle from/to the airport and the train-station in Warsaw.

Meals: We offer a simple but good lunch and supper. The first meal is supper on 1st October and the last meal is lunch on 4th October 2015. Costs: 50 Euro in total.

Accommodation: We offer accommodation in 3 different categories on “first come, first served” basis. The costs of the rooms depend on the standard of the hotels/retreat houses and include “bed & breakfast”. All rooms are with toilets and showers.

For more information and registration, please visit our website www.iccrs.org 



from each continent. He also wanted to give a priority to priests from the peripheries. It was wonderful hearing him speak with such wisdom and knowledge about a wide range of topics relating to the universal Church. Among the many things he touched on were, the challenges of poverty, secularism, and global and political matters. He recognised the challenge priests have of meeting pastoral needs and remaining faithful to their missionary mandate. The day ended with, at the request of the Holy Father, a 'simple Eucharistic Celebration'. It was the feast of the Sacred Heart and in his homily the Pope spoke in a very moving way about the tenderness of God and how we need to allow ourselves to be drawn into His love, mercy and divine embrace.

After the time with the Pope, the anointing of the Holy Spirit seemed to be flowing in an even more powerful way. So our final full day with the theme of empowerment certainly proved to be an enormous blessing. Father Raniero set the scene beautifully in his morning talk encouraging the priests to be more expectant in faith and to enter more fully into the anointing of God.

In the afternoon, Msgr Malagrecce from USA, shared from the perspective of a Parish Pastor. His reflections were powerful, practical, and pastoral. This was followed by a very moving testimony from Bp Luis Azcona. He works among the very poor in the Amazon region of North Brazil. He shared about how his life had been transformed from being a priest with a social conscience trying to meet the needs of the people in his own way and strength to being a priest empowered by the Holy Spirit. He was now able in a fearless way to stand with the poor and be a voice for the powerless even at times risking his own life for the sake of the Gospel.

The final part of the day was led by Patti Mansfield from

USA and Abp Alberto Taveira from Brazil. They led a time of prayer for a new release of the Holy Spirit. Patti encouraged the priests to be open to receive a new gift of tongues that would take them deeper in their prayer life and ministry. Archbishop Taveira asked the priests to stand with their arms held up, like in a position of surrender and he also asked the bishops present to come to the front of the basilica. The time of praying in tongues began in a gentle way but gradually built up into a strong crescendo as more priests were released in the gift and as the deeper anointing was released. As I looked out from the sanctuary at the line of bishops praying in the Spirit and I saw all the priests praying in surrender to the Holy Spirit, I sensed the Lord saying to me; 'this is the Church'.

Tears began to flow down my cheeks. I guess so many of us who have lived through some seemingly dry times in CCR never thought we would live a moment like this. I am sure that the grace filled moment that we lived on that day will flow out into thousands maybe millions of people's lives through the ministries of all those priests and bishops.

The final Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Vallini, the General Vicar of His Holiness for the Diocese of Rome. We thanked him for making the Basilica available for us throughout the retreat. He spoke very warmly about the experience of the retreat and in a really powerful way he sent the priests out to share the Good News and the grace of the retreat with everyone that they meet.

We have asked priests to send us their testimonies from the retreat and we are now receiving these which is a real blessing. We hope to send them to the Holy Father as our way of saying thank you for all that he did to enable our 3rd worldwide Priests' retreat to be so powerfully blessed. 🙏

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

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



Gathering of the Renewal for a New Evangelization of the Family

During the World Meeting of Families · Philadelphia 2015, the Gathering of the Renewal for a New Evangelization of the Family will be held, organized by the CCR of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Centro Internazionale Famiglia di Nazareth and many other realities of CCR including ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity.

The event will take place in the Convention Center, on Saturday 26th September at 8.30 am – 1.30 pm.

Please for more information visit the website www.worldmeeting2015.org.

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
- 28 Aug - 17 Sept 2016 ■ 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. 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.



LTC · Slovenia

- 15 – 22 November 2015 ■ Contact: Andrej Justinek → andrej.justinek@gmail.com

LTC · Seattle - USA

- 10 – 17 April 2016 ■ Contact: Tammie Stevens → LTC2016@wwccr.org

LTC · Poland

- 06 – 13 August 2016 ■ Contact: Fr.Wojciech Nowacki → wnowacki@odnowa.orgau

LTC · Guadeloupe

- 22 – 30 October 2016 ■ Contact: Huguette BOQUE-OLANOR → 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.

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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 an annual subscription of € 15.

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You will receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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