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Fanning the flame through the Spirit of Power Love & Self Control: **Be Close to the Poor**

■ **Brother James Shin**

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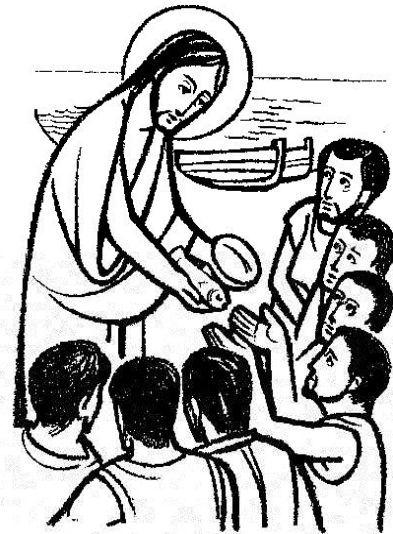
Pope Francis visited Kkottongnae, Korea on August 16, 2014 to meet the poor, the abandoned children who are handicapped. Kkottongnae is a social welfare complex founded in Korea where we have been taking care of 5,000 poor, sick and helpless people. During his recent address to the Renewal (June 2014) the Holy Father exhorted us to “be close to the poor and touch in their flesh, the wounded flesh of Jesus”.

Who are the poor? Late cardinal Stephano Kim Su-Hwan who was a first cardinal of Korea said, “The poor are not just objects of our impulse charity or help, but saviors who are delivering us little by little: We can still stay in the favor of God because of their existence. That is why we cannot help thinking that we get much greater and much more precious things from them than what we give to them. They are never useless people, but the most valuable people who lead us to happiness by making us love each other.” The Pope, who wants a church which is poor and for the poor said, “They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. They are anointed by the suffering of Christ.”

The Definition of Poverty. In the Old Testament era, poverty was understood as a deficit and was treated as an unhappy state which should not exist in the human world. However, in the New Testament era, Jesus came to this world and proclaimed a 'happy poverty', which is also called a spiritual poverty, is the poverty of people who are bound to only God and who give everything to their neighbors not just being aloof from wealth. "Spiritual poverty is the state where we feel deficiency

because there's nothing more to give out, no matter how much we would like to. Jesus achieved spiritual poverty first since He gave His life for men and wanted to give more

to His people, practicing His own word, 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend.' Like this, we can live in blissful poverty when we're finally satisfied by fulfilling our needs for love, once we have loved our neighbors until we feel spiritually poor."



"Whenever you did it for the least important, you did it for me." (Mt25,40) I took care of an AIDS patient who was in the terminal stage. He was discarded by his mistress and even his own immediate family. I brought him to Kkottongnae hospital, cleansed the bloody pus on his decaying flesh due to bedsores, applied disinfectant, and bathed his body covered with blood and sweat. When I fed him with some warm rice after changing his clothes and making his bed, I happened to make eye contact with him and found tears welling up in his eyes. We lived together like this for about forty days. He left his last word when he passed away, "I am happy--I can now forgive everybody and even my family who abandoned me."

When I heard his last word that he was happy, my soul became full of happiness and joy as if I could possess all the universe because I could feel strong presence of Jesus in him. He made me rich by means of his poverty even though he was hopeless, helpless and poorest as a terminal patient. The scripture passage became true; “rich as he was, he made himself poor for your sake, so that you may become rich by his poverty (II Co 8,9).”

New evangelization, as Pope Francis said, is “an invitation to acknowledge the saving power at work in their lives and put them at the center of the Church’s pilgrim way.” We should not look down on them or forsake them. Taking care of 'strangers, the sick, and prisoners' with all our heart is the way for all of us to achieve happiness following the will of God. "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Matthew 5: 3)." 🐘

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**There is no greater love
than to lay down one's
life for a friend.**



Report:

Focusing to the Golden Jubilee – 2015 ICCRS Council Meeting

■ Oreste Pesare



At the end of the 3rd World Priests Retreat, the 2015 ICCRS Council Meeting was held in Rome from June 15th to 19th, focusing on the preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the CCR in 2017.

3rd World Priests Retreat. Over 1,000 priests from 89 countries, gathered at the St John Lateran Basilica in Rome, reflecting and praying together on the theme: 'called to holiness for a new evangelisation', have literally experienced the fire of the Holy Spirit in their heart. Here is a prophecy received at the end of the event that express well the experience: "Today I have lit such a flame in your heart. Protect this fire and run to set ablaze the hearts of men and women of this century. Time is short. Be apostles of my fire and prepare the world for the Jubilee of the new Pentecost inside the Catholic Church."

Because this event was an important step in the preparation for the Golden Jubilee, the Council spent some time reflecting on it and the fruits that will inevitably come upon the entire CCR.

Collaboration with Catholic Fraternity. Another important matter of the Council's reflections was the collaboration with the Catholic Fraternity (CF) with whom ICCRS has a juridical relationship expressed in its statutes. Working with the CF is not new for ICCRS: during the years our collaboration has grown more and more, first of all in understanding our specific natures, identities and roles in the CCR also organizing together some events as the Colloquium on the Charisms in 2008. A big step in this collaboration was the decision to share the office and, since September 2014, the Catholic Fraternity office and staff moved within the ICCRS office space. Thus we are living a prophetic message of 'unity in diversity' for worldwide CCR toward the 2017 Golden Jubilee.

2017 Golden Jubilee. One of the central issues of our Council Meeting was the general plan for the CCR 50th anniversary. As we have already shared with the president of the CF, we foresee that the Jubilee celebrations will consist of a three-day event leading up to the Vigil celebration with Pope Francis on the eve of Pentecost June 3rd 2017, in response to his public invitation. So from Wed 31st May there will be various events happening in several locations around Rome, for example, a youth festival, special events for theologians, Charismatic Communities, Schools of Evangelisation, etc. There will be an ecumenical forum, opportunities to gather for praise and worship, adoration and evangelisation. Plus a series of workshops on various CCR topics that will be offered during these days. Since September 2015 we have already started specific meetings in order to finalize the program and organization aspects. We plan to open registrations after Easter 2016. Any development and info will be published on both the ICCRS and CF websites.

ICCRS Training and Formation. Training and Formation is becoming more and more a central issue for ICCRS. We have different types of training: The LTC is at the elementary level, LFI at the intermediate level and now we are working for a higher level with the University of the Holy Spirit, that we are aiming to begin in 2017. It is interesting to know that since the year 2005, already thousands of people from all over the world

have participated in our formation programs: 11 LTC courses in as many countries and 6 LFI institutes in Rome up to the year 2015. Many others will participate in upcoming programs: the VII LFI in September 2016 in Rome, and LTCs in Slovenia (Nov. 2015), Seattle - USA (Apr. 2016), Poland (Aug. 2016) and Guadalupe (Oct. 2016). Another area of formation that ICCRS is beginning is on 'intercession'. At the end of June 2015 we concluded the first Intercession Training Course in Quebec, with around 500 participants from 31 different Countries. Alleluia for that.

Worldwide Continental, Regional and Ministries reports.

A significant part of our Council Meeting was dedicated to reflecting on the various worldwide areas and committees reports. It is always amazing to share how the Lord is concretely working in CCR around the world and through the various ICCRS committees and sub-committees. Among others, are the fruits of the work of the Continental ICCRS Sub-Committees in Asia (ISAO), Africa (AFSCI) and Europe (ESCI). Significant are also the developments of the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission, that is currently working on a new document on the ministry of deliverance prayer. Also it was very interesting to listen directly from our president Michelle Moran about her untiring ministry throughout the five continents, sharing the vision of the Lord for ICCRS and the entire CCR. Also we shared about the work of the various ICCRS Committees and Sub-Committees for Family, Youth, Newsletter and Project Fund.

ICCRS administration and elections. Another essential aspect of our meeting was the 'ad intra' life of ICCRS: administration (changes in the staff), financial situation (our sweet weakness) and elections and re-elections of the Council members. In this regard it is noteworthy to share that:

-Denise Bergeron (Francophone North America and Anglophone Canada and Caribbean) and Ann Brereton (Oceania) have been re-elected for a second term;

-Christof Hemberger (Northern and Western Europe) and Marcos Volcan (Portuguese South America) have been re-elected for a third term of service. Marcos is also the new Vice-President of ICCRS.

-Andres Arango (USA) has been elected for a first term of service for the Spanish North and Central America and Caribbean, replacing Maria Eugenia de Gongora (Guatemala);

-Jean Christof Sakiti (Togo) has been elected for a first term of service for Francophone Africa, replacing Julienne Mesedem (Cameroon);

-Francis Edo Olotu (Nigeria) has been elected for a first term of service for Anglophone Africa, replacing Fr. Emmanuel Tusiime (Uganda);

-Bp. Francis Kalist (India) has been elected for a first term of service for Near East and South Asia, replacing Cyril John (India).

The elections for the representative of ICCRS in Spanish South America have been postponed for one year due to the lack of a possible replacement. Maria José Cantos (Chile) will continue until the 2016 Council Meeting.

The next ICCRS Council Meeting will be held in Rome on July 10th -14th, 2016. Blessed be the Lord now and forever. 🙏

María José Cantos de Ortiz & Fr. Niwacki Wojciech

MARIA JOSE CANTOS DE ORTIZ



My name is María José Cantos de Ortiz, Spanish, resident of Chile. For a long time I did not participate in anything in the Church, but my husband, a practicing Catholic, always invited me to go to Mass with him, sometimes I did but only to please him.

I had a beautiful marriage and 2 healthy children, I really was very happy and I did not understand what was happening to me. Now I understand. As Augustine says, "God, thou have made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee".

One day I strongly felt an inner voice saying "You need a retreat", I had never been on a retreat!, and didn't even know what that was.

I searched a nearby parish and found out that I could go on a retreat for "servants of the CCR", which cost a lot to accept me, because it was new (God's purposes are different from ours).

A priest preached on the Gospel Lk 14:26, "who loves his father or mother or children more than me, cannot be my disciple." At that moment I felt a sword crossed my soul, confused, I focused on the prayer that followed and during the singing in tongues, I had a vision: I saw that for me, my children, husband, home, family, etc. were first before Jesus, and I felt he was telling me, "if you put me in the first place then your heart will rest", I said, "Yes sir I want it!", and afterwards I

felt the hands of Jesus removing a band from my eyes!, now how I saw was strange, but everything looked beautiful. I then began to see my sin. I confessed and left full of joy and love of the Lord. It was November 5, 1985. For me it was a before-and-after experience in my life.

I began to pray without ceasing and to read the Bible, I was hungry for God, frequenting the sacraments, going to Mass, in short, everything changed in my life.

A priest invited me to give my testimony in various parts of Chile and then invited me to give retreats with him. My husband and I currently work in the CCR in giving formation retreats, preaching Life in the Spirit Seminars and helping in the ministry of intercession.

The books I've read have helped me a lot, including 'Baptism with the Holy Spirit' (ICCRS Doctrinal Commission), 'Prayer of the Heart' of Jean Lafrance, 'Life in Christ' and 'Sober Intoxication in the Spirit' of Father Cantalamessa, 'Letting God be God' of P. Carlos Vallés, 'Practising the Presence of God' by Brother Lawrence, 'To my God Interior Light?' of Larrain, 'Raising Holy Hands' of Cyril John.

My vision of the RCC in the future is that we can be a river of living water in which the whole Church is imbued with our identity, in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, like Pope Francis has reiterated on several occasions, to give voice to the baptism in the Holy Spirit! 🙏

FR. NIWACKI WOJCIECH



In 1975, as the teenager, I took part in my first retreat ran for the youth by the Catholic Light - Life Movement. That year the Movement had chosen to focus on the topic: "Renewal in the Holy Spirit". Since that retreat I have cherished a great experience of community and a desire to continue this spiritual journey. I was especially fascinated by a common, spontaneous prayer, dynamic songs of worship and meeting with the Word of God.

The first years of seminary formation, brought a gradual spiritual "hypothermia". In 1983 I have encountered some catholic youth groups that were of extraordinarily dynamic and joyful. Their melodious songs of worship attracted me very much. I realized that they have something that I need. This encounter was accompanied by a strong sense of God's guidance.

Later on I participated in the Life in the Spirit Seminar and received baptize in the Holy Spirit. Its immediate result was my openness to the prayer of praise flowing out abundantly from my heart. The charismatic experience helped me to prepare myself better for my ordination and is a constant part of my ministry. I find it particularly precious during preaching the word of God, the sacrament of penance and prayer of intercession.

Holy Spirit keeps reviving and strengthening my faith. Thanks to the baptism in the Holy Spirit I'm constantly learning what it means that Jesus is my only Lord. He gives me the grace of inner freedom in receiving His plan, especially when it is surprising and very different from my own. I see that, if only I trust Him - His plans turn out to be really wonderful.

Since 1996 I was a member, and for 11 years a chairman of the Polish NSC Council. Currently, I am involved as a Diocesan Coordinator of the Renewal, member of the National Team of Coordinators, member of the National Theological Commission of Renewal and also ICCRS Council member for Central - East Europe and European ICCRS Subcommittee member. Involvement in the Renewal is a very important part of my ministry.

I would like to quote some words from the book of Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, "Eucharist our sanctification", which is very important to me. It helps me to understand and to live the connection between the celebration and the daily live. During the Eucharistic consecration, I say: "TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY..." and: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD" I realize that I should identify myself with these words. It means that I am giving to the others right to take my time, my capacity and everything I have. I can't end the Eucharist just leaving the church, but I have to confirm the celebration with whole my life. The book of Fr. Cantalamessa indicates the richness of the Eucharist what is very helpful not only for priests but also for everyone who would like to experience Eucharist in a much deeper and fruitful way.

I am convinced that the gift of baptism in the Holy Spirit is very important for the whole Church, especially now, for new evangelization. Holy Spirit is working very powerfully, inspiring all the different charismatic realities to stronger cooperation with bishops and clergy. I also hope that Holy Spirit will bring new rich fruits, new zeal and trust to the Renewal ministry of worship and charisms. 🙏

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

First National Charismatic Congress of the Aboriginal Nations at the Indian Reserve of Obedjiwan, Quebec, Canada

"Following the International Formation for Intercession with representatives of the Aboriginal Nations, the First Charismatic Congress held at the Indian Reserve of Obedjiwan took place.

This reserve is the furthest native settlement in Quebec (590 km from Trois-Rivières). There were over 350 participants from which 200 were native people.

The Lord is doing great things for reconciliation. It was a very enriching as well as emotional experience. They expressed the desire to have congresses for the next four years."

ICCRS FORMATION

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



LFI • Rome, Italy

■ 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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