

ICCRS LEADERSHIP BULLETIN

FORMATION FOR CURRENT AND NEW LEADERS IN CCR

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BREAK ALL CHAINS

Denise Bergeron
ICCRS Councillor

LEADERS IN A TIME OF CRISES

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Doctrinal Commission:

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BREAK ALL CHAINS

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During his address at Circus Maximus, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee, Pope Francis recalled that the coming of the Holy Spirit transforms men who are closed because of fear into bold men capable of proclaiming:

Jesus Christ is Lord. When we confess or invoke Jesus as Lord, we profess our faith in his divinity. For the Christian who desires to be free from his chains, it seems to me that it is essential to invoke the Name of Jesus with faith, trust, and to place ourselves under his lordship of love¹.

Jesus reveals himself as the Savior through acts that speak and dynamic words. Jesus saves the wounded in their bodies, but he also saves them in their hearts and minds.

In the Gospel of Luke², Jesus clearly states his mission: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor, to announce to the captives their liberation, and to the blind that they will regain their sight, to release the oppressed, to announce a favorable year granted by the Lord." And he adds: "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing³."

Jesus clearly shows us his will to deliver us from the power of Satan, sin, sickness and death, wounds and trauma, and ancestral bonds.

Jesus will become the Lord of our life as soon as we give him permission to come in and we choose him as the only Master of our heart.

Christ teaches us how to be loosed from everything that binds us. He reveals the identity of the Prince of this world and how He will overthrow him by his death and resurrection. "And I, once lifted up from earth, I will draw all men to me⁴."

Ways to be free of our chains: By meditating and focusing on the Word of God, by the prayer of liberation and deliverance, by the Sacraments, by the ministry of intercession, and by adjusting one's life to the requirements of the Gospel.

Deliverance ministry

The trickery of the Evil one is to hide: He operates in three main ways: temptation, oppression, and slavery⁵.

Temptation: The devil knows that if he can capture your thoughts, he gets a big victory over you. Many fall prey to deception because they allowed evil spirits to dominate over them through obsessive thought.

Oppression or infestation: Evil spirits will oppose and obstruct preaching, charisms, conversations, as

well as personal relationships between the Christian and the Lord, and with other Christians.

Slavery (habitation, obsession, vexation or possession): Satan seeks to entangle people in a slavery to himself, taking partial or complete control of the body, thought or emotions.

What might we need to be delivered from?

-Wounds: separation, abandonment, rejection, domination or subjugation, guilt, comparison, feelings of inferiority, betrayal, humiliation, devaluation.

-Addictions: food due to abuse in food, alcohol, drugs, sexual misbehavior, gambling, etc.

-Negligence: for prayer, lukewarmness or lethargy, in commitment, lack of motivation, carelessness.

-Escape from reality: activism, lies, imagination.

-Personal and community sin: bitterness, refusal to forgive, desire for revenge...

-Occult practices and experiences with sects.

Prayer of deliverance

Lord Jesus, shed your precious blood on hearts and souls so that everyone may be protected from all evil attacks. Virgin Mary, extend your mantle of protection on each person, on their property, their family, and all that they have. Holy Father, it is by the Name of Jesus, with the power of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Mary that I ask you to lift all evil forces and attacks that could have undermined the faith, hope and charity of your child.

In your Name, Lord, I ask you to release your child from all that holds him captive (name the things identified). By the power of your Name, Jesus, I cut the negative connections with the people, the places, the events, and the painful situations of life; I lift all spells, incantations and bad wishes that could have been brought against your child. In your Name, I bind all these things and I lay them at the foot of your cross so that they never come to reach your child; that they are bound forever, destroyed, and annihilated. Return in thanks and blessings to those concerned, places, situations, events, all the harm that has been done. Restore now your one and only Lordship of love, peace, joy and inner freedom. Send down the power of your Spirit on your child. Fill them with your Holy Spirit; pour upon them the anointing of peace, joy and freedom. Thank you, Jesus for doing it. 🙏

¹ Phil 2:10-11

⁴ Jn 12:31-32

² Lk 4:18-19

⁵ Fr. M. Scanlan, R. Cirner

³ Lk 4:21

LEADERS IN A TIME OF CRISES

■ Fr Ken Barker, MGL



A Leader's influence

A leader must be able to inspire and influence others to follow Jesus and to live for the Kingdom of God. A leader's influence will be directly proportionate to the degree to which he or she is genuinely transformed in Christ. When I first came into the Renewal I was influenced by leaders full of the Spirit, sold out for Jesus, and living virtuous lives. They witnessed the new way of life that comes from knowing Christ Jesus, and inspired me to adopt this same way. Leaders today must continue in this great tradition. We need to daily examine our hearts to be sure we are thinking, speaking and acting in the way of Jesus.

As the Western world plunges into moral and spiritual darkness, aggressively throwing off every last vestige of Christian beliefs and values, the Lord will raise up leaders to meet the challenges of the time. There is an urgency to the hour. It can't be "business as usual". Yesterday's weapons will not be sufficient for today's battle. It is not more programs and pastoral strategies that will win the day. Rather we need holy men and women who will live the gospel faithfully. Then their words will have a prophetic edge cutting like a sword through hearts, bringing repentance and revival.

Ready to Die with Christ

In this time of crisis, just like the first Christians, we leaders must be prepared to die with Christ, joining him on the Cross, for the sake of the gospel. We are servant leaders in imitation of Jesus, ready to die to our selfish desires and to live for the salvation of those to whom we are sent. We are shepherds with the heart of Jesus for the sheep, ready to lay down our lives for them. In these days the Spirit will give leaders a passionate love for the Lord, a profound commitment to those whom they serve, and a fire for proclaiming the gospel to the lost.

Jesus said of himself, "Unless the seed falls to the ground and dies it remains but a seed. But if it dies it yields a rich harvest" (Jn 12:24). We must cast the vision of the kingdom of God in such a way that people will catch the vision and want to realize it in their lives. We need to proclaim the kerygma in season and out of season. Christ who died for our sins has been raised for our justification. (cf Rom 4:25). We know he is alive! We know he is the answer to the deepest questions in the heart of every

person. Proclamation of the kerygma rebirths faith.

A Culture of Life and Love

In this age of rugged individualism, absorption in social media has left many isolated and no longer seeking genuine communion. This is a time for communion in the Spirit. Now is the time to build a culture of life and love which will shine out within the secularised culture of death and relational disintegration. These new communities of faith and love are not meant to be focussed inwardly on their members, but truly missionary in outlook. They are meant to be platforms for the new evangelisation. Our credibility and effectiveness will depend on whether we are really living the new life of community in the Spirit, and can welcome people into a lived experience of this.

Radical Faith and Prayer

Years ago I remember a fellow priest sharing with me his conviction that the fundamental problem in the Church is a crisis of faith. This word struck me to the core. I knew it was true of me. I could see the poverty of my watered down faith. How can I be a leader within the Church without faith? I began to pray with the apostles; "Lord, increase my faith" (cf Lk 17:5). That is the prayer of the leader today. Without the faith of Abraham we will not step out beyond our securities; without the faith of Moses we will not reach the promised land; without the faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary we will not listen and obey God's word; without the faith of the apostles after Pentecost we will not see the signs and wonders that will convince our contemporaries of the truth of our proclamation.

As leaders it is crucial that we pray with faith. The Lord is waiting for us to stand in the breach and cry out confidently to him on behalf of our people and on behalf of those to whom he sends us. The Lord wants us to claim the victory won by his death and resurrection for those who are lost and confused without a clear way ahead in life. The apostles said to the Master, "Teach us to pray". He told them to ask the Father, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth". With Christ, who is forever interceding for us in heaven, let's pray unceasingly for the inbreaking of the kingdom here on earth. If the darkness of the secular culture is increasing, so much more will the light of Christ shine through those who live in him and for him. 🕯



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In addition, the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin can be e-mailed for an annual subscription of € 15.

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ABIDING IN MARY'S WOMB WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

■ Fr John P. Horn, SJ



The baptism of the Spirit, the release of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, is meant to be an on-going reality in the ordinary events of everyday faith. This transpires through participation in the Trinity's laboring love. We believe that the reality of the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost is active and present in everyday events.

St. Francis of Assisi spoke about Mary's presence as Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and this title carries a special significance. It is by abiding in her womb at prayer that the Holy Spirit is able to be received new each morning. By participating in this on-going Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is also released in our hearts for ministry and brings us to fuller maturity in Christ Jesus (Eph 4:11-13).

The Father's desire is that Jesus' own life be conceived in each heart, each day, in the power of the Spirit. As his disciples, you and I learn to actively wait in trust and rest in Mary's womb as did Jesus. It is there that we receive the Holy Spirit anew (Lk 1:30-35). It is in Mary's womb that we are born again and again from above (Jn 3:3-5). In the ordinariness of life's events, in our Nazareth's, we learn that the Father's desire to give providential care in affection for us is real. This is what Mary and Joseph taught the Child Jesus, as they taught him how to pray the Psalms.

Praying the Psalms as Jesus did to the Father helps place us in a faith-filled disposition. We can imagine and receive the presence and the on-going release of the Holy Spirit in the Church as Mary's womb. With Jesus we can return to Nazareth, to receive refreshment as the wind of the Spirit winnows away any doubt or anxiety acquired during our trials. Returning to Nazareth with the Child Jesus we learn the truth and glory of Psalm 23. Here Jesus entrusts all his human sorrow and fear to the Father:

"The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing that I lack. In green pastures you let me graze, to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and your staff give me courage. You set a table before me

as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and love pursue me all the days of my life, I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come."

As we pray other Psalms to the Father we begin to understand part of the mystery of how Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom" (Lk 2:40). Mary and Joseph taught the Child Jesus how to walk forward in his identity as Son of the Father by praying these Psalms with him. They transmitted what they experienced in faith as the Holy Spirit rested upon them, and led them to always 'look up' to receive all their blessings from above (Jn 3:3-5). The laboring love of the Holy Spirit was always uniting them to the Father's providential care. Through their instruction and the gaze of love that radiated from them, the Child Jesus came to know that the "favor of God was upon him" (Lk 2:40). The same is true for us.

Jesus' Spirit indwells in our hearts through the Sacrament of Baptism. We each come to understand that we have been called from birth, from our mother's womb, and it is there that we are strengthened, concealed, polished, given our name and become a glorious light to the nations, proclaiming Jesus' salvation to the ends of the earth (Is 49:1-6). It is in Mary's womb that the Holy Spirit refashions us. We become who we are, images of Jesus.

While visiting Nazareth on pilgrimage the beauty of this living mystery was tasted by Blessed Paul VI. He exclaimed; "Nazareth is the kind of school where we begin to discover what Christ's life was like, even to understand the Gospel... Here we can learn who Christ really is."

Pope Francis highlights Our Lady of Guadalupe as "Star of the New Evangelization" (cf. *Joy of the Gospel*). Her womb is pregnant with images of Jesus. And, she comes to us in ordinariness, as one like us. Let us place ourselves in her gaze and allow her to draw us to abide in her womb where Pentecost is ever present. There, through an active waiting in faith, the Holy Spirit will continually re-conceive each of us and the entire Church to be born again and again in and for mission (Jn 3:3-5). 🕯️

THE CROSS OF THE RENEWAL

With great joy we announce the resumption of the Cross of the Renewal production and distribution. The project, conceived and implemented in Canada by our brother René Brimo, now in heaven, serves to give a symbol of belonging and witness to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal's stream of grace and for the continued support of ICCRS in its worldwide service mission. Visit online shop at www.iccrs.org / www.arrediliturgici.it





QUESTIONS TO THE ICCRS DOCTRINAL COMMISSION

The ICCRS Doctrinal Commission, currently headed by Dr. Mary Healy, is in consultation with theologians and experts from around the world.

If you have a question about the CCR, please send it to newsletter@iccrs.org

SHOULD ALL CCR GROUPS NEED TO BE UNDER THEIR PARISH PRIEST?

The Church teaches a balanced perspective regarding the formation of lay groups and associations. The laity have the right to found and control such groups; however, those groups are not ends in themselves but should serve the mission of the Church to the world (see Vatican Council II, *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 19). As John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Letter *Christifideles Laici* (29):

First of all, the freedom for lay people in the Church to form such groups is to be acknowledged. Such liberty is a true and proper right that is not derived from any kind of “concession” by authority, but flows from the Sacrament of Baptism which calls the lay faithful to participate actively in the Church’s communion and mission. In this regard the Council is quite clear: “As long as the proper relationship is kept to Church authority,

the lay faithful have the right to found and run such associations and to join those already existing.” (see also Code of Canon Law, 215)

Thus lay people are free to form charismatic prayer groups, to lead those groups, and to meet at times and places they choose. These groups should maintain a filial relationship to the local bishop, who is responsible for spiritual oversight in his diocese. If the group is connected to a parish, they should recognize the authority of the pastor, who is responsible for ensuring that groups in his parish are spiritually sound and faithful to Catholic teaching. However, this does not mean that the pastor should be the leader of the group. The Church recognizes and strongly affirms the gift of lay leadership, especially as it is exercised in accord with people’s charisms. 🏡

ICCRS PUBLICATIONS



MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD... ...THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION IN MY LIFE

Author: Oreste Pesare

Published by: ICCRS

Year: 2017

Language: English and Italian

Oreste’s powerful and virile encounter with God slowly develops into a close relationship between a loving Father and a son who learns to open his heart more and more to God’s grace. He becomes more aware of not wanting to ‘use’ God for his own needs but rather wanting to be ‘used by’ God for His purpose...

Deliverance ministry is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that testify to the abundance of grace granted by God to the whole Church through Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

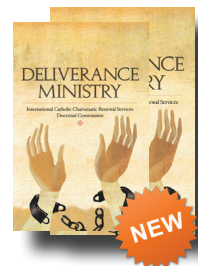
DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Author: ICCRS Doctrinal Commission

Published by: ICCRS

Year: 2017

Language: English



CHARISMS AND THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

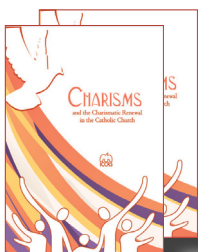
Author: ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Published by: ICCRS

Year: 2015

Language: English

The gifts of the Spirit are not always well understood or well integrated into the life of the Church. There is need for deeper theological and pastoral reflection on the role of charisms and how to discern, guide, and foster their use for the good of all.



Over the years, ICCRS has published books, booklets, DVDs, and other resources for the CCR. You can buy our products online with a credit card or PayPal by clicking the “Add to Cart” buttons on the website!