



# ICCRS LEADERSHIP BULLETIN

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## CELEBRATE ONE BIRTH, ONE FAMILY

■ Jim Murphy · ICCRS President

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### CELEBRATE ONE BIRTH, ONE FAMILY

**Jim Murphy**  
ICCRS President

**ANGELS AND US**  
**Jean-Christophe Sakiti**  
ICCRS Council Member

### IN MEMORY

Questions to the ICCRS  
Doctrinal Commission:

**CAN SEVERAL PEOPLE  
PRAY OR SING IN  
TONGUES AT ONCE?**



For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (Jn 3:16).

As we celebrate the coming of the Christ, it is important to recall why He came among us in the first place.

He was sent to us. It was God, the Father of all of humanity who sent the Son into the world in order that humanity might be restored to the Father. Time and time again, Jesus spoke of His relationship with the Father, His obedience to the Father, and His desire to do the will of the Father. It was the Father who made the first move to restore humanity... and Jesus joyfully obeyed.

He gave Jesus to the world. That is not a special interest group. That is not a particular political party. The world is every human being, every person with a beating heart. The Father loves us all!

The “giving” of Jesus takes place in the incarnation when the second person of the Blessed Trinity took on human flesh, becoming one of us, becoming part of “the world”.

The “giving” of Jesus takes place on the cross. The “second Adam” out of obedience to the will of God, takes on the sin of all the world and embracing it as His own, offers it, with His own life to the Father, for the atonement of our sins.

The “giving” of Jesus is enhanced when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the early Church at Pentecost. Jesus said the Spirit would be given in order to make known everything He Himself taught us. The Spirit would also transform us, turning us into faithful and capable followers and witnesses of Jesus.

The Spirit would aid us to “believe in the Son of Man”, but this same Spirit would enable us to go out into the world and make “disciples of all nations”.

Those who received this pouring out of the Spirit were given a new capacity to believe, but also the ability to help others believe. The followers of Jesus were united in a common experience... Jesus, and a common mission: by the power of the Holy Spirit, to make disciples from every nation and people.

It is recorded in Acts 2 that people from all over the known world were gathered in Jerusalem on that Pentecost Sunday. While they were not in the upper room with the Disciples, they were just outside the building and heard the sound

of the rushing wind and the 120 of the upper room praising God and worshipping in the Spirit. It caused them to come together, to try to understand what was happening. With the Spirit-empowered preaching of Peter, about 3,000 more people came to believe in Jesus that day.

We see a similar thing happen in Acts 10, when Peter proclaims the gospel to the household of Cornelius, a Gentile. Although Cornelius was not Jewish, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon him and his entire household! They too became believers! Although Peter and the early leaders of the Church could not completely understand what was happening, they knew that God was calling people from all over the world, from all walks of life to come to faith in Jesus.

The people had different backgrounds, different traditions, different... everything. What gave them unity was the Spirit being poured out on them and drawing them in to a life-altering belief in Jesus.

These believers knew many blessings but they also faced many challenges. At times they disagreed with one another. At times they faced terrible persecution from those who did not believe in Jesus. Still they pressed forward. Even though they struggled, the Spirit sustained them and helped them to believe and to help others believe.

In our day, the situation is not so different from our spiritual ancestors. There are struggles among believers and there is persecution in many parts of the world against those who follow Jesus. Yet just as in Centuries past, the Holy Spirit is being poured out on believers in a marvelous way in order to strengthen us and to help us be strong together.

To be honest, the divisions among Christians and the very real persecutions taking place in the world almost seem overwhelming. How can we solve these problems? What are we to do? The solution lies beyond human capacity. We need the Holy Spirit to bring us to a unity that we cannot ourselves achieve. We also need the Holy Spirit to make our witness even bolder, even more powerful in the face of the resistance to the gospel message.

The Father has a plan. To unite “all who believe” in the “giving” of His Son. God started this work, and God will complete it. It is our part to cry out to God for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit in our time, and then to keep an open mind to the unique ways the Lord may answer our prayer.

May we be found to be in agreement with God... and one another, in His plan to save the world! 🙏

## ANGELS AND US

Jean-Christophe Sakiti · ICCRS Council Member



In our creed, we profess: "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and earth, of the visible and invisible universe". Beyond the visible world are creatures who are pure spirits. Angels are part of this world.

In the holy writings, mention is made of the angels who are the messengers of God among his own people. The Church inspired by the Holy Scriptures encourages us to grant an important place to the angels in our journey as Christians.

- Who are the angels?
- What do the scriptures tell us about them?
- What is their role in the lives of Christians?
- What lesson can we learn from it?

### Who are the angels?

It is common to find in the Word of God several biblical passages that mention angels. They are spiritual creatures who serve God. St. Augustine, in his commentary on Psalm 103 (quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 329-330), tells us that the word angel designates the function, or office, rather than the nature of these creatures.

"'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel'".

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (number 330) tells us that they are purely spiritual creatures.

"As purely spiritual creatures, they have intelligence and will: they are personal creatures (see Pius XII: DS 3801) and immortal (see Lk 20, 36). They exceed in perfection all visible creatures. The splendor/brilliance/brightness/ of their glory gives evidence to this (see Dan 10: 9-12)".

### Angels and us

Angels are at the service of God whose mission is to help people respond to God's plan.

### Angels protect us

When the apostles were arrested and imprisoned, the Lord sent his angel to release them from prison.

"But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and, bringing them out..." (Acts 5:19).

In our daily life, in our struggles against the forces of evil, the Lord sends his angels to protect us. When King Nebuchadnezzar had Azarias and his companions thrown into the fire to destroy them, the Lord sent his angel to protect them.

"...the angel of the Lord came down to Azarias and his companions in the furnace, and he scattered the flames" (Daniel 3:49).

### The angels announce the plans of God

When the Lord wants to entrust to people his important projects, He can send His angels to invite men and women to adhere to them. This was the case for the Virgin Mary when God willed to associate her to his work of salvation.

"Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man of the house of David named Joseph, and the name of the Virgin was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27).

### Angels are our guides

We often make human choices that do not make us happy. The Lord sends his angels to guide us and direct us to the good. This was the case for Tobias when he had to make his journey to take Sarah as his wife.

"The angel said to him, I will lead him, and bring him to you" (Tobias 5:15).

### Angels intercede for us

Through their intercession, God answers our prayers as He did for Tobias and Sarah. Angels obtain for us healings and many other graces that we implore the Lord.

"And the holy angel of the Lord, Raphael, was sent to heal them both, whose prayers had been presented to the Lord at the same time" (Tobias 3:25).

### Our relationship with angels

It is therefore clear that angels are the servants of God for the benefit of men and women. As people, we can best receive the blessings of the Lord if we have a special relationship with the angels. This relationship could be structured around three points:

#### Imitate the angels

In our life, let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to be humble servants as are the angels. We will sanctify ourselves more by seeking to be available and helpful like them.

#### Ask the intercession of angels

Their mission is to help us in our daily battles. Why not ask for their intercession especially that of our guardian angel.

#### Thank the angels

For the service they render to men and women every day and thank the Lord who gave them to us.

God be praised for his gifts for the world. May His name be praised for the angels whom he has created and who praise him incessantly. Let us enter into their company to become men and women of praise and imitate them by becoming people who are constantly at the service of God for the benefit of their brothers and sisters. 🙏

## IN MEMORY

■ *"Well done, my good and faithful servant. ... Come, share your master's joy."* Matthew 25:21

We would like to take a moment to remember a few faithful servants, who returned to the Master during the Jubilee Year and this past year. Their faithfulness to the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit has a worldwide and longlasting impact on the Body of Christ.



### FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN, T.O.R. • 1931 - 2017

Fr. Mike experienced the life-changing power of baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1969. Through this radical opening to the Spirit and charisms, Fr. Michael's leadership was empowered to transform the College of Steubenville from a struggling regional college into Franciscan University, with a worldwide reputation for both excellence in academics and its passionate Catholic faith environment. He was inspired to host conferences on campus – first for priests, for leaders, and then for youth - as he "allowed the Creator Spirit to create an environment where Jesus is truly Lord and where the gifts of the Spirit can flourish." His influence is felt not only at Franciscan University, but in the lives of the millions of people around the world who have been inspired by his teaching and his life of holiness and prayer.

### FR. PETER HOCKEN • 1931 - 2017

Fr. Peter Hocken first heard of the Charismatic Renewal in 1971 when studying in Rome. However, it was in England in that year, after attending a weekend conference on the gift of prophecy, that he had his first experience of the Holy Spirit. He had been a member of the Mother of God, the Charismatic Covenant Community, served on the ICCRS Theological Commission, and had a great love of scripture. Fr Peter had a "lively sense of the work of the Holy Spirit through the Charismatic Movement but also in creating unity between believers, as well as reaching out to the Jewish people, our elder brothers and sisters in faith."

His wisdom and knowledge were matched only by his humor and his longing for the things of God.



### FR. KEVIN SCALLON, CM • 1935 - 2018

Fr. Kevin is known and loved around the world for his ministry to priests as well as for his work with the laity. He also served as a seminary spiritual director and missionary in Africa. Over 40 years ago he founded the Intercession for Priests which has spread to many countries. Just before his death, he had been ministering at the Intercession for Priests in Europe.

Since 1985, Fr. Kevin and Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC, traveled the globe preaching the Gospel and praying for healing with great effectiveness.

### FR. THOMAS FORREST, C.Ss.R. • 1927 - 2018

Father Tom Forrest was a Redemptorist priest and a worldwide leader of the charismatic renewal. He preached to hundreds of thousands in about 120 nations, and led many thousands of youth, nuns, married couples, priests, and bishops to a closer relationship with the Lord. He was a member of the first Council for the International Communications Office (ICO) to which Cardinal Suenens also served as Episcopal Adviser. He also served as Director of the ICO office and later as the Chairman of the International Council. In 2003 he received the August Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontificia from Pope John Paul II for his dedicated ministry in promoting the New Evangelization. He was known for his great love and passion for God and for his people.





## 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](mailto:newsletter@iccrs.org)

# CAN SEVERAL PEOPLE PRAY OR SING IN TONGUES AT ONCE?

To answer this question, let me first emphasize that there is no specific Catholic teaching on how to use the gift of tongues. The brief references to tongues in Church teaching simply affirm that tongues is one of the charisms given by the Spirit, and that all charisms are intended for the common good of the Church (see the Catechism, par. 2003). Thus to discern pastoral guidelines for the proper use of tongues, one must turn to the teaching of St. Paul in 1 Cor 12-14, along with common sense and the practical wisdom that comes from experience.

Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians implies that there are two different forms of the gift of tongues. The distinction between the two is sometimes described as "praying in tongues" and "speaking in tongues".

"Praying in tongues" is the gift of tongues as a prayer language, an overflowing prayer and praise of the heart that is expressed aloud but not with rational sounds. "For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit" (1 Cor 14:2). This gift is something very close to contemplative prayer. Paul notes that it is valuable for a person's own spiritual growth (1 Cor 14:4), and he indicates that this form of tongues is available to all (1 Cor 14:5). This form of tongues is very common in the Charismatic Renewal today, and several of the saints also seem to have had it, including Augustine, Bernard, Teresa of Avila and John Vianney. St. Teresa wrote, "Our Lord sometimes gives the soul feelings of jubilation and a strange prayer it doesn't understand.... It seems like gibberish and certainly the experience is like that, for it is a joy so excessive that the soul wouldn't want to enjoy it alone but wants to tell everyone about it so that they might help this soul praise our Lord" (Interior Castle, VI.6.10). It should also be noted that there are many recorded cases of miraculous tongues, where the speaker spoke a language unknown to himself but known to a listener.

"Speaking in tongues" is tongues in the form of a public message spoken to the assembly, a less common gift. In this case, Paul instructs that the message in tongues must be followed by an interpretation. Otherwise it is meaningless to people and has no capacity to edify them. When a message in tongues is followed by an interpretation, it is actually a form of the gift of prophecy. Paul emphasizes

the superiority of prophecy because of its capacity to strengthen, encourage, and console the members of the body of Christ. "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified" (1 Cor 14:4-5; see 14:28).

The disorder that Paul corrects is evidently a disordered use of this second form of the gift of tongues. What seems to have occurred in Corinth is that people were speaking messages in tongues out loud without respect for proper order or for another person who was already speaking. This is why Paul instructs them, "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting by, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged" (1 Cor 14:29-31).

This brings us to the question, can people pray in tongues all at the same time? While we cannot know with certainty what occurred in the Corinthian gatherings 2000 years ago, contemporary charismatic experience does seem to correspond in many ways with what Paul describes. We know from contemporary experience that when many people pray or sing in tongues together (the first use of tongues described above), there is a deep harmony brought by the Spirit. Sometimes there is a remarkable harmony in the musical tones; but more importantly, there is a spiritual unity brought about by worshiping the Lord in one accord. Each person is praising God in a different tongue, but the tongues all blend together in unity. This is the opposite of the discord Paul describes when the gift of speaking in tongues is used improperly—that is, when several people are trying to get attention for a message in tongues at the same time.

Paul reminds us that the ultimate standard for the use of tongues and of all charismatic gifts is love. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor 13:1). Love is the motivation and goal that gives the gifts their value. If we are faithful to Paul's counsel, both praying and speaking in tongues will glorify God and contribute to the up building of the Church in love. 🏡