

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Celebrate Jubilee:

The Duquesne Weekend

Jude Muscat



Anniversary celebrations carry an inner dynamic of joy and hope. Their external manifestations, whether expensive and impressive or frugal and modest, may not always express the true depth of this inner dynamic. This subsists in the inner spirit of the celebrators and is a continuously lived reality within the organic structure that is celebrated.

Christian anniversaries take this inner dynamic to a higher level: they become prophetic. Prophecy itself is an act of joy and hope because it is a sign of God's presence, thus a reason for joy, while the salvific word becomes a delightful hope for the things yet unseen (Cf. Rom 8:24).

The Golden Jubilee anniversary hosted by ICCRS at the Ark and the Dove on February 17 and 18 this year, was extremely modest in comparison with the grand events in Rome. A small crowd attended. Nonetheless it was a sincere manifestation of the joy and hope that the unique experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit brought into the life of millions of people and consequently into the life of the Church. The event was highly prophetic in character. I will briefly point out three aspects that seemed exceptionally relevant to me.

Christocentricity

All prophecy is necessarily Christocentric. The planting of the Cross of the Renewal on the grounds of the Ark and the Dove epitomized this. It was a very simple ceremony largely dominated by a faith symbolized by the Cross. The focus was not on any great international speaker, nor on the wooden Cross itself, but on a great awareness of God's presence that filled the crisp air lit by the weak rays of the morning sun. The small crowd of international leaders gathered around the cross to manifest their joy and hope through prayers of praise, worship, and intercession. The CCR and the Church exist only because of Jesus' kenosis on the Cross. It is only in Him, through Him, and with Him

that we can bring about the much needed joy and hope in today's culture. As long as those involved in any reality of the CCR are rooted in the mystery of the Cross, there is hope for the world.

Reverence for God's action

The small crowd almost filled the space at the Ark and the Dove. People gathered in small halls to participate in the evening's event hosted in the chapel. With great humility and wonder, Patti Mansfield shared her experience. She must have done so innumerable times in the past, but she could not have told it more freshly at this event. The whole assembly was spiritually absorbed into the experience. I can testify that it was not an emotional, nostalgic walk along the historic paths of 50 or so years ago, but rather a narration of God's wonderful deeds throughout the ages. God's deeds breach the boundaries of time and space and they lifted the whole assembly into the realms of the Holy, to be transformed, encouraged, challenged, and sent forth.

Motivated and expectant

A holy energy suffused the entire two days, which brought peace and an outburst of power. Surely, this was not only an external comfort that was brought about by the events around us, but rather a move of the Holy Spirit. The simple and modest celebrations that were prepared had an unseen drive that released a flood of motivation and expectant faith into the hearts of all those present. Gathered as one body in Christ, we were ministered to by the Word of God, the Holy Eucharist, the testimonies, and the preaching. God was at work in us.

God called us into the Holy of Holies once again. He gathered us into the Ark and the Dove to renew His promise. As prophetic and renewing for the heart of the Church as February 17, 1967 was, February 17, 2017 was as well. God will make all things new. We move in hope and joy into the future, for He will never leave us. 🙏

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Dear brothers and sisters,

I was baptized into the Catholic faith when I was 2 weeks old, and have loved being in the body of Christ my entire life. I LOVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!!!

My introduction to the Charismatic Renewal began in Juneau, Alaska (USA). It was June of 1971. I had gone into an Assembly of God church, out of mere curiosity. I was surprised by what I encountered there, but fell in love with these new brothers and sisters. So many things that I had longed for in my relationship with God I found in that amazing encounter with the Holy Spirit!

I returned to my home in Michigan (USA) and attended a prayer meeting put on by the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In the following years, I became very involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I was excited to see how the Spirit was transforming the lives of so many people. I was happy to serve where I could, as I believed the Renewal was a significant way God was working in the world, and was excited to be part of this amazing grace.

Eventually, I was asked to serve on ICCRS, which was a great honor, but also carried a sense of responsibility. In ICCRS, I met many wonderful brothers and sisters from all over the world. I also saw how the one Spirit could move in many ways. God's work was much bigger than anything I could imagine. I also understood that God

works in a variety of ways through a variety of people. No one "owns" the Spirit.

Those years of service and all those important lessons came to a new moment of realization and clarity as I stood in the crowd at Circus Maximus, during the recent celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal held in Rome at Pentecost. The Jubilee was an opportunity to look back, give thanks, and reflect upon some important lessons. It was also a time to look ahead, trying to understand God's plans for us and learning how to respond in this new day.

In the ICCRS Council meeting that followed the festivities, there was a surprise of the Spirit with my election as the next President of ICCRS. I love and respect our former President, Michelle Moran so much, that to be honest, it is a bit intimidating to try to walk the path she has blazed for us. Still, I have to trust God and rely on the prayers of my beloved brothers and sisters, that God will give me the grace necessary to fulfill my task.

As the ICCRS council was coming to a close, we returned once more to the now empty Circus Maximus. The open field was in sharp contrast to the throng of nearly 38,000 people gathered there just a few days earlier. We walked back to the place where Pope Francis had addressed the crowd. The stage was gone; the chairs were taken away. It was an empty space. However, as we stood there looking over the open area, I seemed to see again the smiling faces, the banners snapping in the breeze, and the hands lifted in prayer and jubilation. "Looking out" over the crowd once more, a crowd from more than 120 nations, I fell in love with the Renewal all over again. But the "Renewal" I felt so deeply for at that moment wasn't simply a structure, an organization, or an office. It was the men and women, the brothers and sisters... the family from all over the world who had experienced and surrendered to this sweet touch of God's love, the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the day, the Renewal is not about numbers, demographics, or even accomplishments. It's about people... you and me... who have been "set on fire" with the love of God. People who believe that the Spirit of the Lord still moves upon the land to bring hearts close to the Father under the Lordship of Jesus.

That is the Renewal that I love.

That is the Renewal I will serve. 🙏

David Bustamante



Thanks to the dedication of my parents, since I was a little boy I had a great closeness to the faith. They encouraged me to pray and put everything in the hands of the Lord, trying to give me the best education possible. I studied at San Calixto School in the city of La Paz, Bolivia, a school run by Jesuits. Although the academic requirement was very strong, we always had activities aimed at getting closer to God and the brothers.

In 1995, while attending the senior class of high school, one of the priests in charge of the pastoral care of the school organized a retreat to which he invited a young man who gave a vibrant testimony. After a little conversation, this young man, who was the coordinator of the CCR in my city, invited me to participate in the youth prayer group “Fortaleza”.

The first time I went, I remember being very surprised by the dynamics of the group, because their way of praying and singing was totally different from the one I had been taught at home and at school. However, I felt very comfortable. At the end of the meeting, the new members were invited to introduce ourselves. Before we left, the long-time members set us in chairs in front of the Tabernacle and prayed for us, laying hands on us and asking God for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

At that time, I had no experience that could be called supernatural, but as the weeks passed, and I persevered in attending the group, I received the gift of tongues, which at first were meaningless sounds, but eventually became a nice melody.

Some months later, the group organized a Life in the Spirit Seminar in which I was able to draw closer to the Lord and experience His love, forgiveness, and the power of His Holy Spirit.

I have a vivid memory of the day in 1996 when two young men and I were appointed as leaders of the group. The moment they laid hands on us to assume the service, a strong presence of God flooded into me with such intensity that I fell to the ground. The experience of resting in the Spirit was for me a confirmation that the Lord was sending me in this service and the Holy Spirit was giving me the gifts I would need to fulfill this mission. Some years later, I again experienced this force of the Lord by taking on another service that carried greater responsibility.

Throughout these years, I have provided many services, such as being responsible for prayer groups, as a member of the councils of the CCR in my city, and, since 2014, as a National Coordinator of the CCR in Bolivia.

These services have opened my eyes to how our Lord has not stopped acting in a powerful way in His Church, calling new people and calling new leaders to continue their mission on Earth.

Through different meetings and retreats, we have trained the CCR’s leaders in Bolivia on different themes, motivating their groups and ministries to be more open to the action of the Holy Spirit, using the gifts they have received for a fruitful missionary service, and seeking that more brothers live in holiness.

Above all, in this Golden Jubilee year for the CCR in the world, we have motivated them to rediscover the origin and foundation of the CCR. Therefore, we have recommended that CCR leaders read the book Baptism in the Holy Spirit from the Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS, which has led thousands of leaders to have greater awareness of this grace and to seek its dissemination as requested by Pope Francis.

The Lord has shown us throughout the Golden Jubilee that the CCR in the world is an important missionary force, moved by the Holy Spirit and seeking the sanctity of humanity. We have also received a strong call to seek greater depth, especially in prayer and the exercise of charisms. The challenge we have is very great, but we are aware that our God is even greater. 🙏

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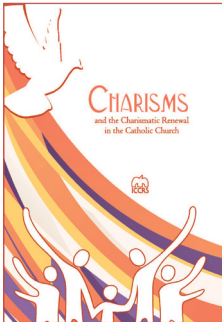
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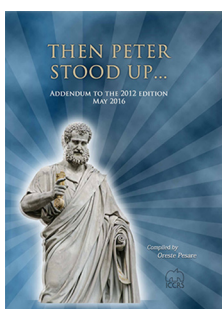
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LISTENING FROM THE LORD

Prophecy received during the Duquesne Celebration · 17-19 February 2017

“Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.” (Ps 42:7). I believe the Lord is telling us through this psalm that he responds from his depths to the deep cry of the human heart. We in the charismatic renewal are called to worship God from our depths – not superficially, not from a place of distraction, not as something we do quickly and then move on, but from the depths of our heart. We are to cry out to God from our depths on behalf of the whole Church and the whole world for a new outpouring of his Holy Spirit. It says in Genesis, “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights” (Gen 7:11-12). That flood of Noah was a prophetic figure of the flood of the last days, which is not a flood of destruction but of the Holy Spirit, so that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Hab 2:14).

Note: When I gave this prophecy on February 17, 2017, I did not realize that it was “the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month,” exactly six hundred months after the beginning of the Duquesne weekend. On that weekend truly the windows of the heavens were opened and the rain of the Holy Spirit fell upon the earth. God is asking us to cry out from our depths that these floodgates of divine life would be opened anew, not only upon us but upon the whole Church and the whole world.

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VIII LFI • Rome, Italy

- 2 - 22 September 2018
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