

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Fanning the flame:

## Keeping and spreading the fire through growth in the charisms

Francis Edo Olotu



Charisms are supernatural abilities that are outward manifestations of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives; they are meant for the building up of the Church. So consider whatever charism you have as another person's miracle in his/her time of need. The catechism teaches that charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity, which builds up the Church. Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim 1:6 to fan into flame the spiritual gift he received when elders laid hands on him for the impartation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It shows we have a personal responsibility to develop our gifts. There is a great diversity of gifts as listed in 1 Cor 12: 4-11; 1 Cor 12:28-31; Rom 12: 6-8; Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 4:10,11; and this list is by no means exhaustive.

We keep getting better at exercising charisms by putting them to use. Paul told us in 1 Cor 14:18 that he spoke in tongues more than the Corinthians. Using spiritual gifts requires boldness as well as acting in faith. Often, some people do not want to exert themselves so their gifts lie buried. However, we must grow in our understanding of charisms—especially our own. Paul taught in 1 Cor 14 that in public worship, the gift of prophecy is superior to the gift of tongues because God communicates to the Church through it while in tongues, an individual communicates with God.

Growth in charisms arises when out of faith, obedience, and courage we seek to put our gifts at the disposal of our prayer group and the larger Church. We should make ourselves available for ministry in the area of our giftedness. When you visit a sick brother or sister and you are prompted to pray for her healing; a thought like “what if she does not get better” might crop up. Ignore it and obey the inner voice asking you to do so. If the person gets healed, give thanks to God; if the person does not get healed, do not get discouraged. When you have another opportunity to pray for the sick, go ahead and do so. Mk 16:18 tells us one of the signs of believers is that when they pray over the sick, such persons will get well.

The fire spreads when people experience the power of the Holy Spirit displayed (Heb 2:3,4). Use your charism always; whatever you don't use, you tend to lose. This is true in normal life as well as



in spiritual life. In the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30), the unprofitable servant received the harshest judgement and lost everything because he did not put to use what was given to him for a purpose. God also uses the principle of he who is faithful in a little will be faithful in much. If you desire the higher gifts, you should be faithful in your use of the lower gifts.

Paul tells us in 1 Cor 12:31 and 1 Cor 14:1 to covet earnestly the best gifts. The truth is, as long as you can get along without flowing in charisms, you won't bother with them. We have the assurance in Lk 11:13 that God will give the Holy Spirit and his gifts to those who ask for them. Seek the gifts with all your heart and you will get them (Jer 29:13).

Avenues for spreading the fire include mentoring people who have similar gifts to yours; volunteering to serve in the church in the area of your giftedness such as teaching catechism if you have the gift of teaching; producing tracts; serving in ministries in your prayer group; and actively evangelizing people.

Charism grows as your relationship with God deepens. Jesus, in Jn 7:37,38, said we shall become rivers of living water when the Holy Spirit indwells us. Continued spiritual vitality is guaranteed us when we abide in Christ (Jn 15:4). Love remains the greatest of all the gifts and we must grow in our love for God and love for our neighbor. Love must be the motive for using our spiritual gift or else disaffection and alienation will arise from its use and put people off. 🏡

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS!



I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.  
*(Luke 2:10-11)*

# Council Meeting 2016

■ Oreste Pesare



The ICCRS Council meets annually and in 2016 we held our meeting in Rome from 10th – 14th July. Here are the highlights of our agenda:

## President's report

First, the President Michelle Moran shared a general report about her and ICCRS' undertakings throughout the past year. She highlighted 5 points:

1. She has travelled to almost every Continent during the past year.
2. ICCRS is living a new relationship with the Catholic Fraternity.
3. There have been several letters of personal communications from Pope Francis to the presidents of ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity.
4. Michelle is trying to prepare the way for the new president.
5. Many normal ICCRS projects and business cannot move forward adequately while Jubilee preparations are under way.

## The Golden Jubilee

For this reason, the Council paid special attention particularly to the preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in 2017. The Draft Plan, the description and reflection on the various Committees (Executive, Council, Assembly, etc) created in order to facilitate the organization, and the Draft Budget has been the focus point of sharing on this matter. A decision was reached for all ICCRS Council members to pray for the CCR GJ17 at either 12 o'clock Angelus and/or 6 o'clock every day, wherever they may be.

## Continental, Regional and Ministries CCR reports

An important part of our meeting reflections has been dedicated to the various worldwide areas and committees reports, sharing the Lord's work in each part of the world particularly through the service of the ICCRS Continental Sub-Committees in Asia (ISAO), Africa (AFSCI) and Europe (ESCI). ICCRS Doctrinal Commission concluded the new document on the ministry of deliverance prayer, which has been sent to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith for feedback. A new Jubilee Anniversary Edition of the book *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* is being published. More recent texts from the Pope Francis are being included.

## Worldwide CCR Structures beyond the Jubilee

Discussion ensued on the paper "Catholic Charismatic Renewal a current of grace for the entire Church". Also on Pope Francis' perspective that we need to work towards one single unified service of CCR that will adequately serve the worldwide Renewal. Accordingly, His Holiness has personally appointed Michelle Moran (ICCRS) and Pino Scafuro (CF) with the collaboration of Oreste Pesare (ICCRS) and Julia Torres (CF) to produce a document/concept paper on a possible 'one only service structure' for all the various expressions of the current of grace of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

## ICCRS Formation

Both LFI and LTC are extremely successful and accomplishing their goals (see Seattle-USA in Apr. 2016, Poland in Aug. 2016, the VII LFI in Rome in Sept. 2016 and Guadalupe in Oct. 2016). A new formation

course on intercession (ITC) is developing now in ICCRS. After excellent results with a pilot course in Canada in 2015, ITC (ICCRS Intercession Training Course) has immediately spread in Congo and in Indonesia. Other requests have been received by the Office.

A special project of the ICCRS Formation development plan is the ongoing endeavours towards the implementation and commencement of a University of the Holy Spirit. While we continue to work on the project with perseverance, we ask everybody to join us in prayer for this project that is really complex and difficult to finalize and execute.

## ICCRS Administration and elections

Another essential aspect of our meeting has been the 'ad intra' life of ICCRS: various aspects of administration (i.e. changes in staff), financial situation (our sweet weakness) and elections and re-elections of the Council members. In this regard it is worthy to share that: Following the procedures for the election of a new President, that will take place during the next Council Meeting in 2017, the Council, with a series of secret ballots, nominated the following four candidates for President, in no particular order: Cyril John (India), Jim Murphy (USA), Mary Healy (USA), Christof Hemberger (Germany). These names have been communicated to the Pontifical Council for the Laity (now Pontifical Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life) for nihil obstat.

Regarding the elections and re-elections of the members in the Council, here is a summary of the results:

Europe - East Central Europe: Fr Wojcieck Nowaki, Poland, has been re-elected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term of 3 years.

Europe - Southern Europe: Jude Muscat, Malta, has been re-elected for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term of 3 years.

America - English Speaking North and Central America and Caribbean: Jane Guenther, USA, has been elected for her 1<sup>st</sup> term of 3 years; replacing Bob Canton, USA (who has completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> term)

America - Spanish speaking South America: After a year of vacancy, David Gonzalo Bustamante Cuellar, Bolivia, was elected for his 1<sup>st</sup> term of 3 years; replacing Maria José Cantos, Chile (who completed her 2<sup>nd</sup> term in 2015).

Asia - East and South East Asia: Endie Rahardja, Indonesia, was elected for his 1<sup>st</sup> term of 3 years; replacing Br James Shin, South Korea (who completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> term).

## Finances

A new Financial Committee has been appointed – Cyril John (Chair) and Christof Hemberger. Two new members to assist the Finance Committee was proposed and then appointed: Hiliary da Viegua (Dubai NSC) and Felix Ali Chendra (V/President ISAO). They will be consultants to the Finance Committee.

New Bank accounts have been opened in Germany (with a sub account for the Golden Jubilee); and another in Australia.

## Next Meeting

The next ICCRS Council Meeting will be held in Rome on June 5th-10th, 2017. 🇮🇹

Snapshot of the ICCRS Executive Director:

## Oreste Pesare

ICCRS DIRECTOR (FROM ITALY)



### When was your first experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

I met the Lord one night, when I found myself arrested in a police station, with some drugs in my pocket. Overwhelmed of fear I cried out: "If you exist, Lord, come into this room and visit my life now. Tomorrow morning will be too late!" ... and a few minutes later I was unexpectedly released. I couldn't believe it...: "God - I said - You exist... You have heard my prayer... You have listened to me when nobody else could help me... and you have saved me..." From that moment nothing was ever the same again for me... I totally surrendered my life to Him and I started a new life.

In few days, moved from a strong desire, I make a sacramental confession, an incredible experience... I felt completely anew. The Lord was working deeply in my being, starting to heal many areas of my past life. The Holy Spirit was like a torrent in my heart, cleaning out the heap of impurities of sin in my life... I started to be a new creation. With a great desire to share this experience, I discovered that my parents had become part of a charismatic community that had started recently in my parish for the past few months. So, I went to visit the leader of this new community, a young priest that I had come to know some years before. It was night and - inexplicably - while I was speaking with him in a little sitting room of the priest's house, we started praying together and thanking God, blessing Him in a simple way, full of peace. Nobody, before then, had explained to me that prayer could be a way to thank God! The prayer turns into joy, elation. Then tears, and weeping. And again elation, singing... an incredible experience... a joyful melody floods my heart and I start to sing... I was experiencing a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just like the experience that we also know as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit... a deep encounter - heart to heart - between God and man... and my life knows the joy of salvation!

That moment signed deeply all my existence and, after more than thirty years from then, I can now testify that God who I knew only as a judge, far and not interested of me, now has found home in my heart, in my family and in my life.

### In what way do you serve the Renewal today?

I had now been the Executive Director of ICCRS since 1996. I'm also an elder of the 'Comunità Magnificat', an Italian covenant community present in various countries of the world. I serve also as editor of 'Venite e Vedrete' ('Come and See'), an Italian magazine serving Charismatic Covenant Communities. But, certainly the strongest Lord's call that I am trying to answer to is the passion for the mission in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, that - when my commitment with ICCRS allows me - makes me travel for missions to all continents.

### What book have you read within the last 12 months which you recommend others to read?

The book that more of any other I read is the Holy Scripture. And I recommend any leader and any member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal not to forget it and to prefer it to any other literature. It should be our daily bread in order to be disciples of Christ.

### How do you see the Renewal of the future?

After 50 years of its beginning in the Catholic Church, I see a Charismatic Renewal living its adult mature age as a current of grace that includes variety of ecclesial experiences (groups, communities, schools of evangelizations, ministries, etc) living in plenitude into the Catholic Church the unity in diversity, and also as protagonist of a new time of dialogue and unity with all the other Christian Churches and communities in building the 'one' bride of Christ, all collaborating to the mission of the Church with their own charisms and capacities. I see a Christian Charismatic Renewal more and more a spiritual engine for all the Church, moving the hearths of the sleeping Christians to weak up and be the real disciples-missionaries of the XXI century. 🏠

### ICCRS Products

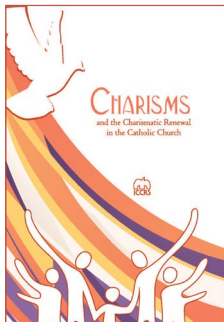
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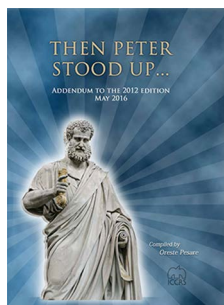
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### New ICCRS publications



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For more information visit our Website: [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)



### ADDENDUM TO THE BOOK THEN PETER STOOD UP...

This booklet contains the speeches of Pope Francis to the Charismatic Renewal from 2014 - 2015

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Golden Jubilee 2017

[www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org](http://www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org)



CCR-Golden-Jubilee-2017



CCR\_GJ2017

Please send news from your group, community or NSC to [newsletter@iccrs.org](mailto:newsletter@iccrs.org).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference for ISAO

Bahrain hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference for ISAO (ICCRS International Subcommittee of Asia Oceania). Originally to be held in another country, the service team within a short period of 10 months managed to acquire government approval; to co-ordinate the many overseas Catholic Charismatics attending the event; and to organise the registration, feeding, and transport needs of more than 920 participants from 16 countries.

Bahrain—the poorest of the Middle Eastern countries—is also one of the most tolerant of non-Muslim religions. According to Wikipedia, the majority of Christians who live there are foreign citizens from all over the world who live and work in that country. They belong to various Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Churches. The grandfather of the current King of Bahrain gave permission for the first Catholic Church to be built 75 years ago. The ‘Mother Church,’ as it is known, is housed within the Sacred Heart Church complex in Manama where the ISAO Conference was held. The King of Bahrain has recently given land and his approval for the first Catholic cathedral to be built in the country. The Catholics of Bahrain were thrilled to hear this news and are now in the process of raising the funds to build their first cathedral.

The countries of the Middle East are divided into two dioceses. The Most Rev. Camilio Ballin, Bishop of Northern Arabia and the Most Rev. Paul Hinder, Bishop of Southern Arabia are the shepherds over this vast flock of Catholics. Both are men of humility and strength and each of them took time out of their busy schedules to spend the entire three days at the conference. Principle speakers at the event were Michelle Moran (ICCRS President) and Mark Nimo (USA), with the talks focusing on the theme: “I will pour out my Spirit continually, generously, liberally, and in abundance.”

Music teams from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, and Kuwait led the participants in vibrant times of praise and worship. I have been to other conferences and entered into many joy filled times of worship such as this, but found I needed to remind myself of where I was. Unlike other conferences, most of my brothers and sisters attending this one live with the real threat of persecution and death because of their faith.

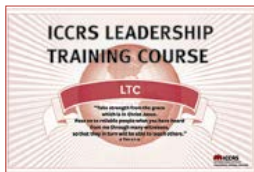
It is normal for a weekday Mass to draw more than 500 people. The Renewal is strong and growing in the Middle East. The people are alive, rejoicing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and living in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit Seminars can draw more than 600 people at a time. There are training programs, youth programs, intercession groups, regional events, and conferences. This conference in Bahrain was unique in that it brought together Charismatics from many Middle Eastern nations and gave all the attendees the opportunity to not only experience the wider Church but also to draw strength in knowing they are not in isolation.

A young man, after attending a workshop, shared with me, “I’m from Saudi Arabia. It is very difficult living there as a Christian, but now I know that I walk in the footsteps of the Holy Spirit who is always moving, my hands and feet are the hands and feet of Jesus my Lord and it’s Him walking, talking, working in the streets of Saudi Arabia through me. I’m taking this message back to my groups.”

The Lord is alive in the Middle East. Please pray for your brothers and sisters who live there that they will continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and experience the love and peace of our mighty and awesome God. 🙏

### ICCRS FORMATION

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [formation@iccrs.org](mailto:formation@iccrs.org) for more information about our training programmes.



### LTC • Guadeloupe

■ 22 – 30 October 2016 ■ Contact: **Huguette BOQUE-OLANOR** → [o.boque@only.fr](mailto:o.boque@only.fr)

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course, in partnership with local Charismatic realities, 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, and teachings. There is also time for reflection, sharing and ministry.

### ITC • Indonesia

■ 2 – 7 December 2016 ■ Contact: **Steffanus Dinoto** → [steffanus.dinoto@sukses-expamet.com](mailto:steffanus.dinoto@sukses-expamet.com)

New ICCRS programme of formation for the ministry of prophetic intercession.

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