

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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SUFFERING WITH THE HEART OF MARY

■ Michelle Moran · Former ICCRS President

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Doctrinal Commission:

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In my years of service at ICCRS, during visits to Rome, I was blessed to be able to visit St Peter's Basilica on many occasions. One of my first prayer places in the Basilica is just inside the entrance on the right where there is the famous sculpture, the Pietà by Michelangelo. The sculpture is carved from a single slab of marble and depicts Mary cradling Jesus' body after it had been taken down from the cross.

It is difficult to imagine that when Mary, the young woman from Galilee, gave her fiat, her total yes to the Lord at the Annunciation, she had this scenario in mind. Yet as she committed herself whole-heartedly, impeded by no sin, to God's saving will, she devoted herself totally as a handmaid of the Lord, to the person and work of her son, under and with him serving the mystery of redemption, by the grace of Almighty God. Therefore the Fathers of the Church see Mary not merely as passively engaged by God, but as freely cooperating in the work of man's salvation through faith and obedience. This union of the Mother with the Son in the work of salvation is made manifest from the time of Christ's virginal conception up to his death (*Lumen Gentium 56*).

Throughout the Gospels we see Mary advancing in her pilgrimage of faith. Simeon gave her the prophesy: "You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many

may be laid bare" (Lk 2:34-35). It is difficult to imagine that she knew the extent to which her own heart would be pierced. Yet she persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross.

Any other mother would be unable to endure such a horrific scene; they would be collapsed on the floor, distraught, possibly hysterical. But Mary



'stood' at the foot of the cross in keeping with the divine plan, enduring with her son the intensity of his suffering. She associated herself with his sacrifice in her mother's heart.

Mary brings us face to face with the love in the heart of Jesus crucified. Sometimes in our hardness of heart we can stand at the foot of the cross and not feel moved. Thankfully, the one who has a sinless, perfect, immaculate heart will help us. She will give us her compassionate heart; she'll even let us live in her heart if only we will give her ours. St. Mother Teresa, in her prayer of consecration to Mary, focuses on the exchange of hearts. We give Mary our hearts and she gives us her Immaculate Heart.

On those occasions when I have prayed before the Pietà in St Peter's, gazing on the sorrowful mother tenderly cradling the body of her son, I have prayed for all mothers and all those in deep sorrow. I have also prayed, as Mother Teresa often did, "Mary lend me your heart." This is, of course, a symbol of a deeper spiritual reality. The heart refers to the inner life, the seat of the Holy Spirit. So, my prayer is an invocation to our Blessed Mother that she may "lend us her heart," that we may be filled more fully with the Holy Spirit, and that our hardened hearts would burn with love for Jesus.

May Our Lady of Sorrows help set our hearts on fire with love for him. 🙏

We give Mary our hearts and she gives us her Immaculate Heart.

NO GREATER LOVE

■ Andres Arango · ICCRS Councillor



Many people over the centuries have sought to love others in the best possible way.

The letter of Saint Paul to the Romans tells us: "Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves His love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8). Paul in his reflection thinks that finding someone who would die for his enemies is almost impossible, but he affirms that Jesus died for us being his enemies, and that is the greatest proof of God's love. Jesus himself said: "The greatest love one can have is to give his life for his friends" (John 15:13). But He went even further when He gave the command "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44).

Three reflections that show that there is no greater love than God's:

-The sufferings of Jesus on the cross: Movies have tried to capture the sufferings of Jesus during his passion and crucifixion. However, none of them can show the true depth of his suffering. Isaiah, prophesying the passion of Jesus, said that people were aghast for he was so disfigured that he no longer looked like a man. Let's reflect on two aspects: first, the great physical pain of Jesus. We do not understand how much our God suffered when being scourged, crowned with thorns, forced to carry the cross, and worse, to be nailed to the Wood. Only great love enabled Jesus to suffer all that. The second reflection is that his condemnation to this inhuman death was not because He deserved it, it was simply out of love for us, for paying the debt we had pending because of our sin. What better way than to read the prophet Isaiah describing this deeply: "He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, like one from whom

you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed" (Isaiah 53:2-5).

-His total surrender: Jesus is completely God and completely man. This is such a deep mystery of God's love, because He really lowered himself to our dignity as a man to show us how much he loves us and, in doing this, He was completely obedient to his Father, renouncing his own human desires. What greater love can exist? This is true love, not thinking about our desires and needs, but instead surrendering without condition, without expecting anything in return, as long as others are full of love and reaching complete happiness. The letter to the Philippians describes this total surrender of Jesus: "Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

- He showed the depth of God's love: Through his total obedience to the death of the cross, Jesus showed us that God is love. At the same time He invites us to be capable, like Him, of forgetting about ourselves and loving to all, without exception, with the greatest love that exists: God himself. This is what the first letter of John describes: "Let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him" (1 John 4:7-9). 🏠



MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD... by Oreste Pesare

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. He becomes available to serve the spiritual and material needs of others, near and far. What we are shown is a marvellous exchange: if you take care of the Kingdom of God, He, the Lord, will take care of you and your life in a very concrete way... according to the trustworthy words of Jesus himself: So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:31-33).

[from the Foreword written by Paul Joseph Card. Cordes]

Buy online at www.iccrs.org
The book is now available in Italian too.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

■ Dn Christof Hemberger



Last year I was seriously ill in hospital. I remember a particular night lying in my hospital bed feeling very afraid of the test results that would be told to me the next morning. In the midst of this darkness suddenly Psalm 23 came to my mind: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..." Although I knew my circumstances did not look good, in my heart this verse repeated itself over and over again. Suddenly I remembered the refrain of a worship song: "Without fear and sorrows I give you my YES. With You at my side I face tomorrow!" Like a catchy tune, these two texts remained in my heart for many days. In spite of my fear and sorrow, my heart prayed: "Lord, you are my shepherd. I do not understand what's happening here, but I give you my full YES, because I trust in You!" I knew these words to be Truth, not just in general terms but in ALL situations.

Personally, I felt I was not to ask for healing (there

were many others doing that for me) but to pray for the grace to surrender more. He is the Lord. I am the servant. His will shall be done. I placed my trust in His will. Maybe the result would not be what I desired but it would be good because the Lord's deeds are good!

For many days I did not stop praying these prayers in my heart. The functions of my body suddenly came back to normal. Step by step I was coming back to what I was before. I am deeply convinced that in the darkness of my situation the Lord taught me an important lesson: "Trust in me. Give me your YES. I am your shepherd. You will not want!"

Perhaps you are in a time of darkness now. I pray that you too will experience the Grace to deeply surrender to the Good Shepherd and to be led to a deep encounter with him in your very special situation. He will lead you to green pastures! 🌿

TRANSLATION SERVICE ICCRS NEEDS YOU TO REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR THE LORD!

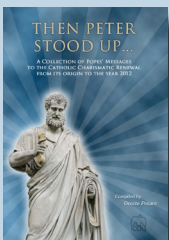
ICCRS welcomes well-organised and responsible people who have the talent of speaking more than one language to offer their voluntary service to the CCR worldwide. Collaborators will be requested to translate or proofread texts, primarily from our Newsletter and website. The texts are generally translated from English into Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese. Here are some specific needs:

-Translators: we search for responsible people that are fluent in English and have a wide knowledge of their mother tongue. Translators should be familiar with the Catholic and Charismatic environment. They will receive a text occasionally and a reasonable length of time will be given to accomplish the task. **We are especially looking for Arabic mother tongue people.**

-Proofreaders: we are also looking for collaborators that may serve as proofreaders of the texts already translated. Proofreaders should have a good knowledge of English and a deep knowledge of spelling, grammar and vocabulary in their mother tongue. They will receive a text occasionally and a reasonable length of time will be given to accomplish the task.

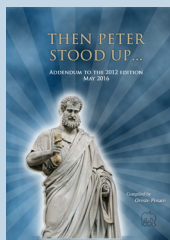
-We also need people whose primary language is English, that have a deep knowledge of the language and that are able to translate, or proofread texts from the translated foreign languages, into English.

If you are willing to serve the Lord with this important mission, please contact us at: communications@iccrs.org.



FROM ITS
ORIGIN TO
THE YEAR 2012

+



ADDENDUM
TO THE 2012
EDITION MAY
2016

SPECIAL - CLOSEOUT!

THEN PETER STOOD UP... UPDATED 2012 VERSION (in English and Spanish)

It includes the Popes' messages and documents to the CCR up to 2012. The photo collection includes pictures testifying the deep relationship between the present Pope and the CCR.

ADDENDUM TO THE 2012 EDITION MAY 2016 (in English and Spanish)

This addendum contains addresses by His Holiness Pope Francis to the CCR up to 2017.

BUY BOTH ONLINE FOR ONLY € 3 (+ shipping and handling)

www.iccrs.org/en/then-peter-stood-up-special/

ICCRS FORMATION

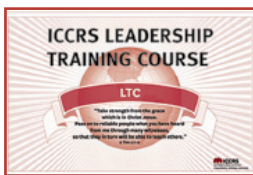
Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.



VIII LFI · Rome, Italy

- 2 - 22 September 2018
- formation@iccrs.org
- English, Spanish and French · Others languages on request

ICCRS offers a Leadership Formation Institute programme. It is a three-week intensive course near the very heart of the Church in Rome, Italy. 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 ministry within the CCR.



LTC · Cameroon

- 3 – 10 November 2018
- fankep@yahoo.fr
- French and English

LTC · Poland

- 17 – 23 February 2019
- monika@glosnapustyni.pl
- Polish and English

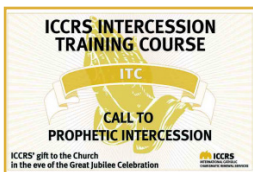
LTC · South Korea

- 29 Sep – 5 Oct 2019
- madangser@gmail.com
- English and Korean

LTC · New York, USA

- 10 – 16 November 2019
- mariejos@optonline.net
- Creole and French

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course, a one-week school, is a way to help foster Leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide. ICCRS is pleased to partner with local Charismatic realities in order to provide this week-long programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.



ITC · Germany

- 1 – 7 October 2018
- seminare@erneuerung.de
- German and English

ITC · Belgium

- 11 – 16 November 2018
- nickyabjebe@gmail.com
- English and French

ITC · Burkina Faso

- 23 – 29 February 2019
- bonkougoujean@yahoo.fr
- English and French

ITC · California, USA

- 17 – 22 February 2019
- yaneth.carreno@yahoo.com
- English and Spanish

ICCRS' ITC is a one-week school. It is the concrete realization of the desire to form a large family of intercessors worldwide. Intercession, being at the heart of evangelization and mission, is well rooted in the Catholic tradition. It concerns all Christians, not just those who are members of a particular group or movement.

CORRECTION NOTICE

IN THE 2018.1 JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ICCRS BULLETIN - THE ARTICLE TITLED "GATHERED TOGETHER" WAS WRITTEN BY JUDE MUSCAT, INSTEAD OF BY JANE GUENTHER AS LISTED.

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The ICCRS Newsletter is an international publication released bimonthly in English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, German, Arabic and Romanian for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of CCR throughout the world, as well as the events organised by ICCRS.

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The ICCRS Newsletter is e-mailed freely. It can be posted to you for € 10 per year. In addition, the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin can be e-mailed for an annual subscription of € 15.

Begin or renew your subscription to the ICCRS Newsletter and the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin today!
 You will receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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