

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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IN MEMORY

Questions to the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission:

CAN SEVERAL PEOPLE PRAY OR SING IN TONGUES AT ONCE?



Advent. A time of waiting. A time when the Church invites us to enter the profound mystery of the Incarnation. For many, preparation for this event is

choosing the right presents; decorating the Christmas Tree; selecting the dinner menu; socialising with friends and family. In this hub of activity our excitement grows and reaches a climax on Christmas day. Twenty-four hours later, often exhausted, life returns to normal, until the cycle begins again the following year. There is nothing wrong in this scenario; yet if repeated year after year it can become superficial. If we are maturing in our Christian walk, our celebration of Christmas should become a deeper encounter with the PRESENCE of the Christ Child rather than the holiday we enjoy and the presents we give and receive.

Why would God choose to be born as a weak and helpless baby? What Mystery is hidden in the Presence of this newborn infant birthed in a cave in Bethlehem? Each year we are invited to enter this cave, to feel the earth beneath our feet, to listen to the sounds of the animals, be warmed from their body heat, smell their scents and gaze in wonder upon the couple lovingly attending to the new life lying within the animal trough. It is only the most hardened of hearts which refuse to soften at the sight of a child newly born into the world and this child has the power to soften the hardest of hearts. This helpless infant represents an unknown future of hope. Contained within His first cry is a voice straining to be heard. A voice with a message to give, love to express, pain to be shared.

In Bethlehem when a strange star was seen in the sky and the busy town was filled to capacity with people visiting for the census, how many noticed a little family alone and desperately searching for accommodation? How many noticed an anxious man burdened with the responsibility of imminent

parenthood? How many saw and responded to their imminent needs?

The birth of a child is a reminder of the circle of life. While on this earth we move from birth to death. In the Presence of this newborn infant of Bethlehem we see God, made Man, unable to survive without the assistance of others. To grow to maturity, He needs to be fed, clothed, nurtured, loved, and comforted. It is evident His family provided these needs, for Scripture reveals Jesus grew into a man filled with love, wisdom, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. The first cry He uttered was for his own sustenance. In time, this cry became a Voice for all the world to hear and His final cry was not for his own needs, but ours.

As we prepare for Christmas can we see beyond the presents to the PRESENCE of the newborn child and enter more deeply into the mystery of his birth. Can we see the needs of others around us? Can we see the homeless, the poor and burdened parents unable to provide for their family during this season? Are we able to respond in some way to their needs and therefore enter into the mystery of that cave on the Holiest of nights? Do we hear the cry of separation, brokenness, loneliness, or unforgiveness? Can we respond to this cry and bring the love, comfort, forgiveness, and practical help necessary to calm this cry of distress?

Over 2,000 years ago in a Bethlehem cave God was born into this world as a baby, helpless to care for His own needs. Pulitzer prize winning writer, Annie Dillard, suggests that this is how we forever find God in our lives, as a helpless infant lying in the straw whom we need to pick up and nurture. "God's works are as good as we make them. That God is helpless, our baby to bear, self-abandoned on the doorstep of time, wondered at by cattle and oxen".

"The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us". 🙏

“ May we draw deeper into the Presence of the Christ Child this Christmas Season. ”

ICCRS FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

■ Cyril John · Chairman of ICCRS Finance Committee



We thank the Lord for the marvels He has done in our midst during the CCR Golden Jubilee Year of 2017. ICCRS exists to serve the worldwide Renewal in all its various streams and expressions. Throughout its history ICCRS has been financially supported through the generous donations of you all and the preparations and celebrations of our Golden Jubilee would not have been possible without your generosity. On behalf of the President, ICCRS Councilors and ICCRS Office, I praise the Lord and thank you all for your financial support which has helped to carry on the mission of ICCRS and fulfill the mandate given to it.

I would like to place a brief report about the financial situation of ICCRS before you to ensure transparency and accountability. The following are some highlights relating to the financial position of ICCRS in the year 2017.

Income

Our total income for the year, from January to December, 2017, was 230,530 Euros. It includes donations from National Service Committees (NSCs), individuals, groups and Communities. Income is also generated from the ICCRS Newsletter, Resource materials and Formation Programs.

Expenses

On average, the annual expenses at ICCRS are approximately 238,449 Euros per annum. We recently took stringent measures to control expenditure at ICCRS as we were often faced with the prospect of having little or no money to keep ICCRS solvent and therefore available to serve the worldwide Renewal.

We need your continued support

As you know, we are in a period of transitioning into the 'One Single Service'. This Service, proposed by the Holy Father, draws together all entities that are rooted in Charismatic Spirituality. This new service named CHARIS, will come into existence at Pentecost 2019 when ICCRS will cease to exist. This has prompted many people to ask the question: "Since ICCRS will cease to exist next year, do you still need financial help?" The answer is: "Yes please!" Pentecost 2019 is still a long way off. Moreover, even after CHARIS comes into existence, service to the worldwide Renewal will continue therefore all money currently in the name of ICCRS will be passed to CHARIS to continue this important mission to the Church.

Sadly, current donations are already on the decline and to date ICCRS is left with little funds. There is sufficient money to carry on its work for a few more months only. To continue we need generous and sacrificial offerings, support and prayers from every one of you. Online payments, transmitting of funds to ICCRS is hassle-free now. Direct Deposits can also be made to Banks in Europe (Germany); Oceania (Australia) and North America. Visit the website www.iccrs.org or contact the office for Banking details.

Please be assured that ICCRS is very grateful for any donation you are able to make and daily in the ICCRS chapel prayers are offered for the intentions of our donors. A number of times throughout the Year a special Eucharistic celebration is also organized specifically for these intentions. May the Good Lord bless you richly for your generosity. 🙏

ICCRS NEEDS YOU TO REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR THE LORD!

TRANSLATION SERVICE

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.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

■ Dn Christof Hemberger



2018 has been a very important year for the worldwide CCR. After celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2017, the task of getting ready for new structures and moving towards a fuller unity in the CCR-Family was a great challenge to all of us. As ICCRS, we need to prepare to change in a very practical way: we need to change contracts, accounts and many other things. But besides the practical issues, we should not forget to also check what we need to change in our hearts, in our attitudes, in our way of thinking.

Pope Francis encouraged all of us who have experienced Baptism in the Holy Spirit to embrace in fullness the unity that CHARIS will bring. The current Charismatic structures will also be joined together and be a witness to this unity. What is our reaction to this now? Are we faithful to Francis'

call? Are we hesitant because we see possible difficulties to overcome? Are we angry because we just do not want this change to happen?

Often, during this past year, I was reminded of Luke 1, when the angel Gabriel visited Mary. I am quite sure she knew the possible difficulties that might arise with her YES to her call. She needed to let go of her plans, her dreams, her reputation. But still she was faithful to the Lord's call and gave her YES. Because of her YES something could happen that the world had never seen before!

A lot of work still needs to be done for CHARIS to serve the worldwide CCR as planned. For difficulties which may appear— let us not forget the intention behind this call of unity. And let us be faithful as Mary was. Otherwise, the new life that CHARIS shall bring cannot be born... 🙏



REPORT ON FOURTH PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

■ Jean-Christophe Sakiti · ICCRS Council Member

From August 6th to 12th in Lomé, Togo, the fourth Pan African Congress of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, took place. After ACCRA in 2007, Yaoundé in 2011 and Kampala in 2014, people from all African countries gathered in Lomé to worship God, listen to teachings, share experiences and intercede for Africa.

Participants: Almost 3000 people gathered together in «Palais des Congrès », the Congress Venue for the congress activities.

Congress activities: Many activities were developed during the congress. Their main objective was to lead participants to enter into a real communion with Lord Jesus Christ.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was very joyful with two parts: The first one was traditional songs and dances from Togo and poems glorifying God and His marvellous love for Africa. There were also three speeches from the Mayor of Lomé, Togo CCR National leader and AFSCI President.

The second part was the opening mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Lomé, Monsignor Denis Amuzu Dzakpa with four bishops from Togo and Gabon. More than 200 priests celebrated the mass with the bishop.

Teachings: About ten talks were given to participants. The objective was to help them understand the theme of the Congress and start a new life after the Congress. Every talk was followed by a deep Prayer time that was very useful because it helped participants to enter into an inner

dialogue with Jesus Christ on what touched them during the teaching.

Masses: Every day we had a mass celebrated by one bishop with many priests who were participants in the Congress. These masses were time to sing to the Lord and welcome his blessings.

Adoration, praises and worships: Prayer took a big part in the Congress. Prayer was expressed through adoration of the Holy Sacrament during one hour every day. Prayer was also expressed through praise and worship every morning with the wonderful Togolese Praise Ministry team. The way of Cross, was also a time for Prayer. We walked and prayed through the town of Lomé for more than three hours asking the Lord to bless every African Nation. Cardinal Peter Turkson was among the crowd for the way of Cross prayer.

Evangelization: On Saturday evening there was a public evangelization. More than 20 000 people came to that event. That event was conducted by Clément Akobe from the “Mère du Divine Amour” community from Côte d'Ivoire.

Conclusion: The Congress was a good opportunity given by the Lord to every participant to meet him personally and start a new life of conversion and commitment to work for the development of our countries. May the name of the Lord be glorified! 🙏

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Please send news from your group, community or NSC to newsletter@iccrs.org.

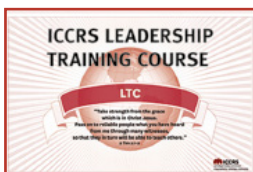
Jericho Prayer in India: Jericho prayer, or march, is a prayer walk or drive by an individual or group to pray for or against something and ask God's intervention or protection. Jericho prayer is patterned after the march of Jericho led by Joshua as instructed by the Lord in the Book of Joshua Chapter 6. The Israelites had to take the city of Jericho if they were to conquer Canaan. But it was a fortified, walled city and its king had spared no effort to prepare its defense against the Israelites. Joshua was instructed by the Lord to march around the walled city once a day for six days straight followed by a more detailed one on the seventh day. The Israelites obeyed God and followed the instructions. The lesson we learn is that we may not always see God's logic, but He is faithful when we obey His Word. We can do Jericho prayer right in the convenience of our own home, parish, city or country.

The National Service Team in India received a strong inspiration to organize a nation-wide Jericho prayer to pray for the country. Our Episcopal Adviser Bishop Francis Kalist fully endorsed this new initiative. I was given an opportunity in February 2018 to address the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) consisting of more than 200 prelates. When I requested their support for the intercession drive covering all the dioceses in the country, they approved it with a whole-hearted applause. The theme of the Jericho prayer is 'Abba, bless our Land' based on 2 Chron 7:14.

Jericho prayer across the nation covering all the 174 Catholic dioceses started in June 2018 and will conclude in November 2018. A team is going to each of the cathedrals to conduct the Jericho prayer either for the whole day or half day including teachings, intercession and Eucharistic celebration by the Bishop. A number of bishops are covering all the parishes in their diocese through Jericho prayer. This will culminate at a national gathering of about 5000 intercessors by name PUSH 2018 – Pray Until Something Happens – from 18 to 21 November 2018. All the crosses blessed by the Bishops will be brought to the Conference and Cardinal Oswald Gracias, President of the CBCI will consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We firmly believe that this new intercession drive will bring abundant blessings to the nation.



Due to a number of circumstances, the ICCRS Executive Committee has decided to postpone the VIII LFI, originally scheduled for 2-22nd September 2018, to October 2019: 6th - 26th October 2019. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by this rescheduling. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPENED FOR LFI 2019



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
- mariejoes@optonline.net
- Creole and French



ITC · Burkina Faso

- 22 – 27 January 2019
- bonkougoujean@yahoo.fr
- English and French

ITC · California, USA

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



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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.

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 You will receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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