

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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THE IDENTITY OF CCR: AMBASSADORS OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

■ Jean-Christophe Sakiti · ICCRS Councillor

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Doctrinal Commission:

ARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER AND WORSHIP OBLIGATORY?



In February 1967, God gave a special gift to his Church: the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This gift is a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church. A new fire has started burning in people's heart: the fire of the Spirit received in their baptism, the fire the apostles received at Pentecost, the fire of the Spirit that is inspiring and guiding the Church since the beginning. Charismatic Renewal has given birth to a new type of Christian: those who are following in the apostles' steps.

CCR, the Holy Spirit acting in the Church

Saint Seraphim from Sarov said: **"The purpose of Christian life is to be filled with the Holy Spirit"**. Some Centuries after Pentecost, Christians started giving less importance to the Holy Spirit and his actions. Consequently, they were no longer capable of living and giving testimony to the action of God in their life. A Christian life became just a tradition instead of being the Holy Spirit acting in people's lives.

CCR started when the Lord sent a new fire of the Holy Spirit to awake Christians and lead them to live a genuine life of sons and daughters of God in Jesus Christ. As they started giving way to the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts were noticed in their lives.

Spiritual gifts in Christians' life

Spiritual gifts are many as written by Saint Paul in his first letter to Corinthians (1 Co 12). Some gifts makes us resemble God in His holiness; some are means that the Holy Spirit uses to act in us. One important gift of the Holy Spirit is to lead people to know who God is and to worship Him. Because CCR is a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it is giving people the grace of giving a genuine worship to God.

What worship is

In the book of Revelation, we read this: **"When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the**

throne, to him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns before the throne saying..."

God is almighty. Everything comes from Him. The only thing a creature can do before his creator is to praise Him, to thank Him for His marvelous gifts and to bow down and adore Him. By doing so, the creature enters deep communion with his creator. This allows his creator to continue to give him His life. Worship is an act of truth and justice. No one can see God and His actions and remain silent. He who encounters God enters automatically in worship. Saint Peter did it after the miraculous fishing. Saint Paul started worshipping Jesus Christ after encountering Him on his way to Damascus.

CCR and worship

According to her testimony, Patti Gallagher Mansfield and her fellows were baptized in the Holy Spirit when they in the presence of the Holy Sacrament. When they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they were like apostles filled with the desire to belong to God, praise Him, adore Him and serve Him. The Holy Spirit leads us to worship our Lord and worship opens us to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Spiritual gifts such as charismas are received by true worshipers. These gifts are developed in Christians who worship.

Worshipping God helps Christians to know His will. In the book of Acts, Saint Luke wrote: **"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said: "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work for which I have called him" (Acts 13, 2).**

CCR is the Holy Spirit acting in the Church today. After fifty years, is the Lord not asking us to give more importance to true worship where we encounter Him, hear His will for our life and open us to the action of the Holy Spirit? Let us worship more and be witnesses to the power and presence of Jesus Christ in the world. 🙏

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

■ David Bustamante · ICCRS Councillor



One of the most outstanding realities in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the fact that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit has revitalized the gift of adoration among those who praise God through different expressions such as singing, spontaneous speech, raised hands and the immense joy of feeling the Love of God in their lives and recognizing Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior.

It is not strange to see in the different Charismatic celebrations, assemblies and moments of prayer the congregated people to intone the praise of God with shouts, exclamations and joyful ovations, multiplying the words to try to describe God and his wonders in a way that is wide and overwhelming. Usually, this enthusiastic expression is complemented with the intonation of hymns, psalms and even dance, since they are enraptured and admired of the glorious presence of God, exclaiming Amen, Hallelujah!

As the Virgin Mary does in the Magnificat, to praise God is to exalt and magnify him (Lk 1:46-56), or like the angels, who recognize his unique superiority in the highest of the Heavens (Lk 2:14). Above all, in praise the greatness of God is confessed, in varied and numerous ways.

The praise intoned by all the peoples introduces us to the "new song" from the Psalms to the Apocalypse, manifesting the union of the Earthly and Celestial Church.

Praise is Christian because it is prompted by the gift of Christ, who is praised for his redeeming power, the miracles he performs before the multitudes, his ministry, his passion and his resurrection. Lord Jesus is our praise!

Praise is paramount in Christianity and should always be present in the liturgical and spontaneous prayer, encouraging the faithful to be transformed into "praise of their glories" (Eph 1:12).

On the other hand we have the gift of worship, which turns out to be the expression of the creature who is impressed by the proximity of God, aware of his insignificance and sin,

who pays honor and glory to Him who lives for all ages. As is the case with Ezekiel and Saul, the believer who worships is overthrown by earth, as if annihilated.

Although worship is a reaction of faith, which effectively invades our whole being, the body manifests in a visible way this sovereignty of the Lord over his creation with authentic gestures such as the prostration before the Lord who is raised above everything and the osculum (kiss) that adds to the respect the need and desire to touch God.

The worship reserved for the one God is, from the beginning of Christianity, due to Jesus, risen and exalted, before whom every knee is bowed in heaven, on earth and in the underworld, since He is the Messiah, God made Man and Savior. The worship is a dialogue with the Triune God, because in the abandonment that implies to adore the Supreme one speaks and transforms our life.

The novelty of Christian worship is not only that God is worshiped in three persons, but that man now worships in "spirit and in truth", consecrating himself in the totality of his being, in body, soul and spirit. The true worshipers that God the Father seeks are those who surrender themselves totally to God, confessing Jesus Christ as their only true King and Lord, and allowing the Holy Spirit to direct their life.

All Christians are called to be those worshipers that the Father seeks, living eagerly the Eucharistic Celebration, worshipping the Blessed Sacrament, living charity in assemblies and prayer groups, and performing family and personal prayer, seeking above all the communion with the brothers and sisters in such a way that in our lives we can make present the Heavenly Liturgy that Saint John describes:

"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands... In a loud voice they were saying... To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever! The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped". 🙏

VICE PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

■ Dn Christof Hemberger



In Germany, we have a saying: "You can always fall off the horse on either side!" I like to use this statement when speaking about our identity as CCR. There are those who have been touched by God's Spirit however slowly but surely have adapted to life as

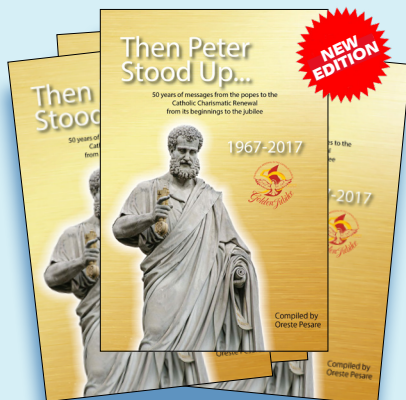
before. In their prayer groups praying in tongues has lost its importance, words and images are shared less and the prophetic is neglected more and more. In most cases, it happens unintentionally as not enough focus is given to the group's charismatic identity. Or it is due, for example, to a conscious decision to adapt to a Parish Priest who does not like the spirituality of the CCR or for attendees who might be uncomfortable by the charismatic elements of a prayer meeting. There are also those who overdo it in their charismatic identity. At times you hear statements like: "A prayer meeting is only good if at least...", "You need

to pray in this and this way, otherwise..." Comments such as these often reminds me of the impetuous behaviour of a teenager who tends to exaggerate in his search for his own identity and is a bit too radical in his life style. Do not get me wrong! I am definitely in favour of fully living and communicating our CCR identity. We have a mission and a task in this world, and there is a reason why God needs the CCR in our time. But it takes moderation and a wide heart. Exaggeration, excluding others and superiority tend to lead us in the wrong direction.

For this reason, I consider it an important leadership task to be guardians of the vision. We continuously need to reappraise whether we are still on the right path, living our calling naturally, with passion, a wide heart and humility. Wherever we freely follow the Spirit of God and give Him permission to guide and correct us, by His grace we will not fall off the horse. 🙏

ICCRS BOOK SHOP

Over the years, ICCRS has published books, booklets, DVDs, and other resources for the CCR. You can buy our products online with a credit card or PayPal by clicking the "Add to Cart" buttons on the website!



THEN PETER STOOD UP... 3rd Edition

50 years of messages from the Popes to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from its beginnings to the Jubilee.

This is the latest updated version. The goal is to allow the reader to enter into the spiritual communion between the Holy Fathers and the current of grace of the CCR, which has already changed the lives of more than 150 million Catholics from its beginnings.

Compiler: Oreste Pesare

Language: English 2018

Price: € 13 + shipping

Special offer: Spanish book + addendum 2017 (2nd Edition) € 3

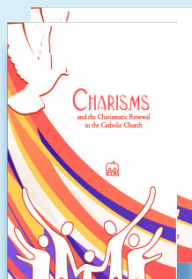
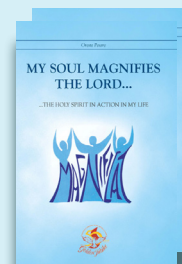
MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD... ...THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION IN MY LIFE

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.

Author: Oreste Pesare

Language: English, Spanish and Italian

Price: € 8 + shipping



CHARISMS

The gifts of the Spirit are not always well understood or well integrated into the life of the Church. There is need for deeper theological and pastoral reflection on the role of charisms and how to discern, guide, and foster their use for the good of all.

Author: ICCRS and CF

Language: English

Price: € 9 + shipping

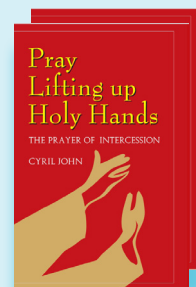
PRAY LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS

"All of us are called to be intercessors. I, therefore, recommend the book to all the faithful for detailed study. It is an excellent guide for those specially called to the ministry of intercession. It will also serve as solid reference for those involved in imparting teachings on intercession". (Bp Francis Kalist, of Meerut)

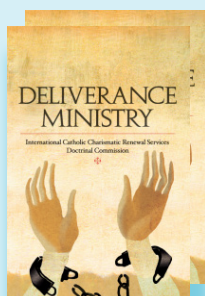
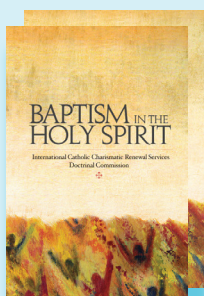
Author: Cyril John

Language: English and Italian

Price: € 9 + shipping



BOOKS FROM ICCRS DOCTRINAL COMMISSION



BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Language: English, Spanish, Italian

Price: € 9 + shipping

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Language: English

Price: € 9 + shipping

ICCRS FORMATION

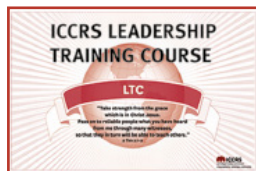
Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.



VIII LFI • Rome, Italy

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPENED

- 06 – 26 October 2019
- formation@iccrs.org
- English, Spanish, French - other languages on request



LTC • Poland

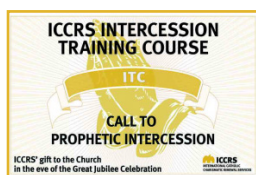
- 17 – 23 February 2019
- monika@glosnapustyni.pl
- Polish and English

LTC • South Korea

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

LTC • New York, USA

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



ITC • California, USA

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



ICCRS Charism School • Australia

The first ICCRS CHARISM School will be held in Victoria, Australia beginning on Wednesday 27th March and concluding on Sunday 31st March. This School, the first to be held for ICCRS, will include excellent teachings along with dynamic workshops, personal prayer and empowerment. Topics will cover many Charisms of the Holy Spirit and explore ways in which these gifts can be used in everyday life. Further details can be found on the ICCRS website www.iccrs.org and www.ccr.org.au or contact Ann Brereton, Oceania ICCRS Representative annbrereton58@gmail.com



CROSS OF THE RENEWAL

The Cross of the Renewal depicts the outpouring of blood and water from the side of Jesus crucified which is symbolic of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 5:6-8). The words 'Veni Creator Spiritus' express the fervent prayer of the CCR. It is our hope that all who have experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit will wear this symbol as a witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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www.arrediliturgici.it

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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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