

In this issue: *What has Uganda to offer to Europe, and what can Europe offer to Uganda? After our announcement of a worldwide Great Gathering of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Family in Uganda (see Eucril 261 on www.iccrs.eu) we received an interesting mail from fr. Michael Hurley in Ireland.*

EUROPE, UGANDA AND PARISH CELL SYSTEM

Fr. Michael Hurley became involved in the Charismatic Renewal in the early 70's. He now ministers at the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin. He wrote:

I have just spend 11 days in the diocese of Maska, Uganda. I was there at the request of Bishop John Baptiste Kaggwa to launch the Parish Cell System of Evangelization within the diocese. I was accompanied by three other people. Fred Mawanda facilitated our visit. He was an Ugandan representative for Charismatic Renewal in the ICCRS meetings in East Africa.

We ran two three day seminars for priests and got a wonderful response. 77 wished to find our more information, while about 15 declared they were making immediate plans to launch parish cell groups in their parishes. Uganda seems ripe for a new wave of God's Spirit. Indeed, my observation is that it is happening already. Praise the Lord.

While in Uganda I often thought of generations of courageous men and women who left Ireland to live there as Christian witnesses. I also realised that today the Irish Church so urgently needs the fresh breath of the Spirit that I saw in so many of its people.'

We asked fr. Michael to share with us in EUCCRIL his experience with the Parish Cell System of Evangelization, which can be observed as one of the many fruits of CCR. He wrote:

Parish Cell System of Evangelization in Ireland

Charismatic Renewal has defined the spirit of my ministry as a priest. An outpouring of God's Spirit awakened for me the desire to point people towards the influence of that same Spirit.

A second defining moment occurred in 1989 when I heard a brief presentation by Don PiGi Perini, San Eustorgio, Milan on Parish Cells. I sensed that this was important for me. I now had a method to facilitate an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the thousands in the parish where I ministered but who shied away from Charismatic Renewal.

Increasing number of small faith groups

This moment occasioned a pastoral conversion for me. It gave my ministry a new direction. I have never let go of a wish to evangelize through small faith groups. It inspires a vision of parish renewal through an increasing number of small faith groups where the Word of God is central, and where people receive ongoing formation in faith and in ministry.

The fruit of parish cells in Ireland has been striking. Through them, many thousands of people have come to a new or deeper intimacy and relationship with God. They experience knowing and being known; loving and being loved; and supporting and being supported within a small community. From here they go and engage in evangelization through good relationships and proclaim faith in the course of everyday life.

Today in many Irish parishes

The cell system, when in operation, makes available a great number of people, who are formed to proclaim faith and to collaborate with parish leadership in the renewal of parish life. It has been the theme of many articles in most of the major religious magazines in Ireland as well as the subject of research projects. Today, cells are a feature in many Irish parishes.

Parish cells remain a demanding ministry. At their core they intend personal conversion, and disciplinship towards maturity in faith. This takes time, training and setbacks. It is equally about changing a Catholic culture from being passive to active; from individualism to communitarian; from being recipients to reaching out to other people in their diverse situations.

Fr. Michael Hurley
Ireland

Further information

Books:

- Michael Hurley: *Transforming Your Parish* (Dublin; Columba Press, 1998)
- Michael Hurley: *Transforming Your Life* (companion booklet), (Dublin; Columba Press, 1998)
- Michael Hurley: *Parish Cell Communities As Agents of Renewal in the Catholic Church in Ireland* (Lewiston, New York; Lampeter, Wales: Edwin Mellen Press, 2011), a sociological analysis, a scholarly work to be used in universities, etc.

Transforming Your Parish and *Transforming Your Life* have been widely used as a basis for a programme of introduction. They also have a Leadership Training Programme.

An International Training Course in English is available. Fr. Michael Hurley is preparing the publication of a Training Programme based on his experiences in Leixlip, one of the fastest growing towns in Ireland.

In Ireland they greatly draw upon the writings of pope John Paul II on evangelization.

Websites:

<http://www.parishcellsireland.net>
<http://www.ccr.org.uk/archive/gn0405/g011.htm>
(= <http://www.stucom.nl/document/0321uk.pdf>)

International: www.cells-evangelization.org

Italian: <http://www.santeustorgio.it>.

In the German and Dutch speaking countries is a similar project available:

www.wege-erwachsenen-glaubens.org.

This is a European infoletter of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS).
Everybody is invited to signup also for the world-wide ICCRS-Newsletter. Just go to
http://iccrs.org/en/index.php/blog/category/newsletter#Subscribe_Newsletter.
Be a supporter of ICCRS (the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services).

This Info-Letter Eucril is free to all interested persons. Submit requests to kees@stucom.nl with the subject
"Eucril" and this message: "Yes, put me on the mailing-list of Eucril-English or/and Eucril-Français."
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