
In this issue: *The Holy Father appointed a 3rd man from CCR as consultor in the Pontifical Council for the promotion of the New Evangelisation. **And:** CCR in Italy celebrates 40th anniversary with Pope Benedict, May 26th. Fr. Francis A. Sullivan S.J. on the beginnings of CCR in Rome in 1971.*

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL

The Holy Father has appointed Salvatore Martinez, consultor to the Pontifical Council for the promotion of the New Evangelisation. Salvatore Martinez is the President of *Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo*, an ecclesial association with groups and communities in the all the Italian dioceses (www.rns-italia.it). December 2011 the Holy Father appointed in this council two other persons from **Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR)**: Moyses Azevedo and Ralph Martin. *Dr. Ralph Martin* (www.renewalministries.net) is a pioneer of CCR from the very beginning. In the early 70's he started the International Communication Office (ICO) in Ann Arbor, USA, that was transformed first into ICCRO (1981) and later into ICCRS (1993). *Moyses Azevedo* is founder of Shalom Catholic Community, an international association that started more than 25 years ago and now is present in 8 countries. This community is specifically committed to evangelisation and Christian instruction through spiritual retreat houses, art centres, a school, a human development association, projects for drug addicts, street children, etc. It also has 4 radio stations, a publishing house and an training institute (www.comshalom.org). More on these consultors: www.iccrs.org.

AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE

Pope Benedict XVI has granted a special Audience to *Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo*, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Italy. The event will take place in St. Peter's Square, beginning 09.00 a.m. on Saturday, May 26th, the eve of Pentecost, and will be preceded by an Eucharistic Con-celebration presided by Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Bishops' Conference of Italy, and Archbishop of Genoa. They expect around 25.000 to participate. Salvatore Martinez wrote: 'It is our desire to thank the Holy Spirit "together" for the growth and for the ecclesial and social maturity of the Renewal in the Spirit'.

BEGINNINGS OF CCR IN ITALY

The first Catholic charismatic prayer group in Rome started in the Spring of 1971. Fr. Francis A. Sullivan, S.J. wrote to me: 'I was professor of theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome from 1956 until 1992. After one of my lectures in the Spring of 1971, one of the seminarians in the class spoke to me about a prayer-group that had recently been started by three young Dominicans who were students at the Angelicum. One of the Dominicans was named Paul Murray. They had come from the United States where they had become involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The student who spoke to me said that he was a member of this group, along with some priests, sisters and other seminarians, about twenty persons in all at that time. The common language of the group was English. He told me that one of the priests taking part in it was Fr. Carlo Martini S.J. a professor at the Biblical Institute. I spoke with Fr. Martini about this group, who told me that he found it very prayerful, and he invited me to come with him to the next meeting. I had never taken part in such a prayer group before, but I came very soon to share Fr. Martini's opinion of it, and continued to attend the weekly meetings which were held on Sunday afternoons in a convent parlor.

After several months we were told by the sisters that they were going to sell that convent, so we had to find another place to meet. I suggested that we might meet at the Gregorian University, and that is where the group, which gave itself the name "Lumen Christi," continued to meet on Sunday afternoons until 1992, when I left Rome. Since then it has met in the lower floor of St. Patrick's Church.

One of the members in the early years was a Canadian Priest, Fr. Val Gaudet, OMI, who spoke French and Italian as well as English. The Lord used him to spread the Renewal in Rome by founding a

prayer group for Italians, and another in which the common language was French.' This is what fr. Francis A. Sullivan, S.J. wrote in 2009, when we started to collect the stories of the beginnings of the CCR in different European countries.

ICCRS-director Oreste Pesare confirmed this story and added: 'Within a few years it had spread so widely that many groups and communities grew up, and national meetings were organized every year'.

MORE NEWS

Eucril is a European newsletter of CCR. The worldwide CCR also has:

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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.

DONATION

Please use www.iccrs.org also for you donation. Financially ICCRS is depending on donations to continue its worldwide service. Have a blessed Pentecost!

Kees Slijkerman

secretary European sub-committee of ICCRS

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Chairperson: Darek Jeziorny

Editor: Kees Slijkerman, e-mail: kees@stucom.nl

European web-site, including old ISSUES and some Spanish and Croatian translations of Eucril: www2.iccrs.org/europe