

In this issue: *News from Finland. Among the very few Roman-Catholics in Finland (only 7000 was the number, published by the Vatican in 2000), the charismatic renewal is very alive. A report from our head-contact Lina Joannou-Jyränki.*

FIRST LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

'Life in Abundance' was the title given to promote the first Life in the Holy Spirit Seminar held in Finland. We started on Saturday 11th February 2012 on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the St Mary Church in Helsinki with 43 participants.

Jenny Baker, current Regional Co-ordinator of the popular Celebrate Catholic Family Conferences that run throughout the UK and member of the National Service Committee (NSC) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England, introduced the Seminar and gave the first teaching about the Love of God.

Helpful DVD

We continued the teachings using the DVD-set "This Promise is for you", under the guidance of Fr Robert Gala SCJ, Chaplain of St Mary's Church. The DVD-set presented six talk by Charles Whitehead and Michelle Moran designed to open people to the life changing work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, using the Scriptures and the Catholic Catechism. We also used the accompanying leaders and participant's material.

Previous to the prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Father Alessandro Pennesi conducted a Holy Mass for Healing and Inner Healing on the 17th March. Many experienced the touching healing of the Lord. Fr Pennesi is the Rector of the St Paul Church at the Three Fountains in Rome. He is also the Coordinator of the Regional Association of Christian Therapists.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

After the H. Mass 34 participants received individual prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit by Fr Alessandro Pennesi, Pancho Chin A Loi, Deacon and Chairman of the Swedish NSC and myself. The Lord distributed His gifts, many were filled with joy, peace and love and witnessed about the marvels of the Lord in their lives. The Seminar ended on the 24th of March with a sending of all for service. We thanked the Lord for His goodness and love that endures for ever.

Bishop and seven priests

In the beginning of March Father Wilfried Brieven from Belgium, previous secretary of the late Cardinal Suenens, gave to our Bishop and seven priests a short recollection on the Holy Spirit. He stayed also one day with the Carmelite Sisters who got an opportunity to hear about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the Holy Spirit.

Charles Whitehead

The Lord continued to bless us in June (14th-18th) with the visit of Charles Whitehead, previous president of the Worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Chairman of the NSC in England and current Adviser Member of the European subcommittee of ICCRS. We started with the celebration of H. Mass for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, followed by Adoration. During his stay he talked about how to have a fuller life in the Holy Spirit, how to walk in the Spirit and how unity is empowering.

The Lord's presence was tangible during the praise before the talks and the prayer meeting on Sunday afternoon. There were 32 participants.

On Saturday evening we received individual prayer and Charles Whitehead shared the Sunday gospel during the evening H. Mass. The Lord sent us a messenger of the Good News in him to build us up so that we in turn will be His messengers.

This was a wonderful continuation of the Life in the Holy Spirit Seminar. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous things (Ps 98:1).

Lina Joannou-Jyränki,
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This Info-letter started in 1999 and is issued by the European sub-committee of ICCRS,

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