
In this issue: *Catholic Charismatic renewal (CCR) is very much a life in many corners of Europe. The Spirit is moving and always doing new things. Below a report of our correspondent in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

CCR EVENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

There was second Gathering held of charismatic communities/prayer groups from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1st till 3rd of April 2016, in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first gathering of this kind was last year, the weekend after Easter, during the weekend of The Divine Mercy. The initiative came from Croatian Coordination of Renewal in the Holy Spirit that is co-ordinated by Lordan Ljubenkovic and Damir Zukan, for those two countries to have at least once a year a gathering to work on connections and contact between Catholics charismatic prayer groups/communities in those two countries.

To develop formation

Last year the gathering was held from 10th till 12th of April 2015, in parish of St. James in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main speakers were Salvatore Martinez, the President of Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo in Italy; fr. Ante Vuckovic from Split, Croatia and representatives from Community Regina Pacis in Italy. There were more than 1.100 people presented out of 60 communities/prayer groups from both countries. The aim is to develop formation of members by sharing and joined in prayer.

Transform us Lord

This year, the weekend after Easter, the weekend of The Divine Mercy, from 1st till 3rd of April 2016, there was second gathering of the same kind. There were more than 1.200 participants out from 62 communities/prayer groups from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was also held in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The theme was: 'By Your mercy – transform us Lord!' It was inspired by the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Importance of forgiveness

The emphasis was that within communities/prayer groups would rule not the spirit of the world but the Spirit of truth, love and hope with fruitful act of love.

The main speakers for the gathering this year were: fr. Damir Stojic, the student chaplain from Zagreb; Oreste Pesare, Director of ICCRS and dr. Hannah A. Schulz from CCR Germany. At the beginning of the Gathering the introduction welcoming was done by fr Marinko Sakota, the parish priest of the church of St. James in Medjugorje. In his welcoming he was talking about the importance of forgiveness and how forgiveness would free our hearts to be open to love, and how we need always search for that love.

Renewed reading of the Bible

Then the first part was beautiful testimony from Oreste Pesare about his conversion and the new life in God. Afterwards there was talk from fr Damir Stojic who was talking about how the members of CCR-groups and communities need to find and renewed reading of the Bible and also to carry the Bible with themselves all the time. Then he carried talking about forgiveness, and also giving all participants the insight of The Old Testament and The New Testament about the Year of Jubilee. The second part of fr Damir's talk was about three parables: (1) The lost sheep; (2) The lost drachma; (3) The Prodigal son.

Live for the salvation of others

The second part of the weekend there was a talk from Oreste Pesare on Pope Francis and

Charismatic Renewal. The main points from the Pope to CCR:

- CCR is a current of grace, be a current of mercy;
- unity;
- worshiping and adoration;
- share the baptism in the Holy spirit with others;
- evangelisation;
- avoid dangers of pride and too much of organizational;
- serving;
- collaboration with local bishops;
- be real witnesses in your surroundings;
- the mystery of forgiveness and about feeling within communities: *we live for the salvation of others! We are in communities not for ourselves but for others!*

Then there was a testimony given by Dr. Hanna Schulz about the Holy Spirit moving in Germany and about the pastoral aspects of the development of the House of prayer movement*. She also gave a talk about the 'five phases of groups', and there was a testimony from Luisa Nottegar from Community 'Regina Pacis' about her husband the Servant of God Allesandro Nottegar, who lived and served people with leprosy.

Receive the gift of mercy

On Friday and Saturday night we all had the Holy Mass together with other pilgrims in Medjugorje at the outside Altar. The Gathering was finished on Sunday when we had Holy Mass in the morning, in the Hall of St. John Paul II, where we had the gathering. Afterwards we had a very powerful prayer for all of us to receive the gift of mercy so that we can pass it on to others. There was big outpouring of the Holy Spirit: **to show mercy to others as God the Father shows it constantly to us!**

The agreement is to have the gathering again next year at the same place, weekend after the Easter: the weekend of The Divine Mercy.

May God bless you all and fills us all with the gift of His mercy!

Blazenka Vidovic
Mostar,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

*See [EUCCRIL 291](#) on House of prayer movement

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

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