



International Catholic
Charismatic Renewal
Services

Serving
the Charismatic Renewal
in the Catholic Church

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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The Role of ICCRS in CCR

by Michelle Moran

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Since the Pentecost gathering of the "movements" in 1998 with Pope John Paul II it has been a great joy to grow in relationship with members of the various movements and new communities. However on such occasions I am always aware that Charismatic Renewal isn't a movement in the same way as the other movements. It is rather a grace or current of renewal in the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions in the Catholic Church. We have no earthly founder, no formal courses of initiation and there are no membership lists. Charismatic Renewal is therefore a diverse collection of individuals, groups, communities and ministries. In our diversity we share in the experience of our faith becoming more alive through the outpouring, release or Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This has been described by Charles Whitehead a past President of ICCRS, as "a personal experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit who brings alive in new ways the grace of our baptism. The Holy Spirit not only sets on fire all that we have already received, but comes again in power to equip us with his gifts for service and mission in the Church and in the world." Through CCR this experience of the Holy Spirit that is sometimes referred to as a "personal Pentecost," is rooted in the Church and this brings unity to the many diverse expressions.

One of the blessings of this spontaneous flow of grace of the Holy Spirit throughout the world has been the freedom that individuals, groups and communities have had to follow the promptings of the Spirit and develop their own Charismatic expressions and activities within the Church. However, a disadvantage of this type of development is it can reduce the opportunities for learning from and collaborating with others. A wider perspective can be very enriching especially at the International level where we have an opportunity as members of the universal Church to experience what the Spirit is doing in every nation.

In order to facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination within CCR, in 1978 an International office with a Council comprising of Renewal leaders from around the world was set up under the auspices of Cardinal Suenens. The role of the office, which was first based in Brussels and then in Rome, was to promote and

facilitate communication and cooperation among Renewal realities nationally and internationally and to provide a channel of communication and cooperation for the international CCR with the Holy See. To this end, in 1993 the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognised the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) as a body for the promotion of the CCR worldwide, with a juridical personality and their statutes were approved.

In April 2000, Pope John Paul II affirmed the mandate of ICCRS saying, "I am certain that for ecclesial awareness to mature in the different Charismatic communities throughout the world, ICCRS can have an important role... The task of ICCRS is to coordinate and promote exchange of experiences and reflections among Catholic Charismatic communities throughout the world." John Paul II also encouraged ICCRS to foster ecclesial maturity within CCR. Part of the response to this was the establishment of the Formation Institute. The three-week Leadership Formation programme is held in Rome and the shorter Leadership Training Course has been run in various countries.

Essentially ICCRS is a "service" offered to all the expressions of Charismatic Renewal throughout the world. When ICCRS presents teaching or pastoral advice, issues guidelines or offers training it does so as a servant offering help, not as an authority expecting compliance. ICCRS has authority through service; it does not seek to impose authority or governance but only to offer its services.

The services that are offered by ICCRS include:

- Assisting communication and providing teaching— e.g. the bi monthly newsletter.
- Provision of an information centre by maintaining a comprehensive data-base of CCR contacts worldwide.
- Fostering Ecclesial maturity through the Formation Institute and the provision of teaching and research materials on key CCR topics.
- The Vatican office houses an extensive archive with many 'historical' documents charting the history of the Renewal. Also, the Brian Smith

"The Holy Spirit not only sets on fire all that we have already received, but comes again in power to equip us with his gifts for service and mission in the Church and in the world."

Mexico's Consecration to the Spirit

"...we had two moments dedicated to the Holy Spirit in 2009. We see this blessing as if it was spring time inside of our world that is enduring a severe winter.."

We as Mexicans and members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, are very grateful to Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the renewal of the Consecration of Mexico to the Holy Spirit.

This initiative and blessing had been defined by the National Bishops Conference of Mexico (CEM) to be during the month of February. They decided that during the celebration of the Mass at the National Basilica of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, all the Bishops of Mexico, would be joined together with all the Ecclesial Movements, and the Mexican Catholics. Together, Mexico renewed the act that happened 84 years ago, in 1925 when our Bishops consecrated Mexico to the Holy Spirit.

This act had deeply marked the Mexican Catholic hearts. Inside the history of our country, we see two large, clear, transparent events that are inside the Catholic blood of the Mexican people. In 1532, the apparition of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe in Mexico, and secondly the Consecration as a nation to the Holy Spirit in 1925. These two events with these two Persons together in our country during the time of our history remind us of those moments of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary were in the Upper room...

We are very pleased not only for the moment during the Mass that our Bishops renewed the consecration,

but also because our Bishops decided that during the day of Pentecost 2009, May 31st in all the dioceses of Mexico, every Bishop together with his Priests, Nuns, and his diocesan people would also consecrate their Dioceses to the Holy Spirit. Therefore there were two moments dedicated to the Holy Spirit in 2009. We see this blessing as if it were spring time inside of our world that is enduring a severe winter.


We invited many to join us through internet, where the consecration was transmitted by the RCC of Mexico at www.renovacion.com.mx. We as charismatic in Mexico had nine days of prayer before April 20th. We thank those who were able to join us in prayer and give thanks to Our Lord for this blessing to the Mexican nation, as well as asking for the Consecration of America to the Holy Spirit. We asked for this in 2007 to the Latin America Bishops Conference, and why not, for the Consecration of the World to the Holy Spirit.

Miguel Mendoza
 CONCLAAT President
 Catholic Charismatic
 Council for Latin America

Sergio Soto
 National Coordinator
 RCC Mexico

- library contains many classic CCR books.
- Organising International conferences, seminars, and colloquiums.
 - Encouragement of on-going theological reflection through the work of the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission.
 - Developing mutual understanding between CCR and the Church, following the guidance of the Holy Father.
 - Maintaining frequent contact with the Pontifical Council for the Laity and keeping other dicasteries of the Holy See informed about CCR issues.

- Maintaining fraternal bonds with various ecumenical realities.
- Cooperation and collaboration with the ecclesial movements and new communities.
- Fostering the special relationship that ICCRS has with the Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities.
- When possible distributing financial aid for the development and promotion of CCR in the poorer regions of the world.

Please keep the on-going work of ICCRS in your prayers. 

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Love in Action

in Kkottongnae, South Korea

for more information, visit www.iccrs.org

June 01–09, 2009

There have been many conferences held throughout the years in the CCR, but one upcoming event deserves special attention. ICCRS will be sponsoring an important, international event in South Korea in early June, 2009. The theme of the event is “Love In Action.”

Apart from the daily Eucharist, various talks and workshops, the program includes a Festival of Praise, Korean worship and traditional dances, silent adoration, three workshop streams concentrating on healing, intercession, and charisms. There will also be a special youth stream. Various testimonies, youth

ministry, drama on evangelisation, visits to various sites and voluntary service to the poor, will be features.

The opportunities which will be available to participate in voluntary work, really serving the poor and the abandoned directly, will at the same time offer the conference participants the privilege of a closer encounter with the Lord.

After the conference, participants will be able to join in pilgrimage to many places that are sacred to Catholics in Korea. Korea has a very unique Church history in that Catholicism was first accepted and spread by lay people.



<http://www.loveinaction.co.kr/> now features information in Italian, Spanish, and French.


in English and Spanish

Leadership Formation

in Rome, Italy

for more information, visit www.iccrs.org

Sep 05–26, 2009



In September, ICCRS will be offering its third Leadership Formation Institute program. Classes will include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Mary, Pneumatology, Kerygma, RCC, Leadership and Ministry. Much of the time will be used to give practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of ministries within the CCR. Students will gain valuable experience that they can take home with them. In addition, the students will go on several field trips.

ICCRS supports:

Ars 2009

International Priests' Retreat

in the village of Ars, France

for more information, visit www.retraitears2009.org

Sep 27–Oct 03, 2009

You who are priests are invited to participate in this moment of spiritual strengthening. It will enable all of us to be renewed in our ministry and to taste the joy of a fraternal encounter among priests from the world over. This will be the occasion to pray fervently for priestly vocations.

Keynote Speaker
Cardinal

**CHRISTOPH
SCHÖNBORN**

(Archbishop of Vienna)



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THE CLERGY

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

South America Lima, Peru

Peace and Joy in the Lord,

"...I express in the name of the brothers in Peru's Catholic Charismatic Renewal our love for you, that we are praying for you so that the wonderful current of graces will not be confined but will keep pouring out in all the areas of the Churches' life and in the world..."

With this letter, we offer a cordial greeting from your brothers of Peru's CCR, with the hope that the Marvellous Holy Spirit will keep spreading its ministry. At the same time we take advantage of this opportunity to share the wonders that our beloved God has fulfilled.

During the retreat of January 8–12, with our National Committee in which all the delegates represent all the different dioceses where the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is present, we realized that in the year 2008, two new dioceses were present in our Peruvian Church. In a climate of prayer and listening to the Lord we elaborated the national project. It is important to mention that inside our main activities we have considered the "Pentecost of the Nations" Project by organizing novenas, vigils, days, evangelization campaigns. We will use Br. Reinaldo Beserra's book "Celebrating Pentecost" (in Spanish).

Also from 13–16 of January 2009, was held the First Congress of Music and Worship School which has the theme: "Warriors in worship... refine your heart." We are counting on the presence of about 350 brothers from the different parts of Peru. We had various workshops of song, prophecy, instruments, discernment for the music ministry, praise, animation, liturgy, etc.

Praise be to God for the wonders He manifested in these events. The preachers were: Fr. Juan Manuel Martin-Moreno SJ and Br. Miguel Horacio. During the 17th of January we enjoyed a Night of Worship and Adoration in an environment of joy and happiness with the Lord. While on Sunday, the 18th of January we had a General Day in the Miguel Grau Stadium with about 5,000

participants. The theme was: "Worship God with Joy because His Love is Merciful."

On the other side the XV Priest's Retreat was organized in John Paul II's Retreat House from 9th–13th of February 2009. About 120 Priests were present and the speaker was Msgr. José Luis Azcona OAR, on the 15th of February at the Claretiano Stadium. Also in the General Day of Worship and Evangelization the theme was: "You are my Joy Lord." We counted on the active participation of many priests who assisted the Retreat where we jointly praised Jesus' glorious name.

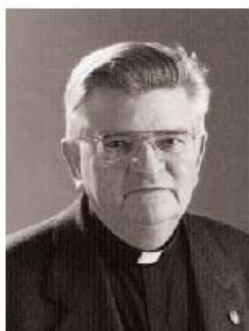
Our priorities for this year are welcoming Pope Benedict XVI's invitation "to sow Pentecost's culture" and to heed the call of our beloved Bishops with the document of Aparecida in which we ask a new Pentecost on Latin America. We have decided on the following theme: "Rekindle the Holy Spirit's fire within the prayer groups and communities in order to praise and proclaim the Lord."

I also want to let you know that Peru's CCR is involved in the Pentecost of the Nations' Project as part of our mission of renewing the Church and the world. The delegate is Brother Jorge García.

Finally, I express in the name of the brothers in Peru's Catholic Charismatic Renewal our love for you, that we are praying for you so that the wonderful current of graces will not be confined but will keep pouring out in all the areas of the Churches' life and in the world. May the Virgin Mary lavish blessings upon you, your family, and all our dear brothers at ICCRS.

Fraternally in Christ and Mary,

Elvira Cárdenas Pajuelo
National CCR Coordinator of Peru



Heartfelt congratulations, from ICCRS to Father Renato Tisot

who celebrated his fiftieth year of priesthood on the 15th of March, 2009.

Father Renato Tisot has been serving on ICCRS' Council as a member since 2004 and has been involved with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1970.